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What your wedding list says about you

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Brussels accused of losing control

Resign call to Santer and his team

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

JACQUES SANTER, the President of the European Commission, was under pressure to resign with members of his team last night after outside inspectors released a devastating report that concluded that he had effectively lost control of the Brussels executive.

In an unprecedented crisis for the European Union's administrative machine, MEPs of most political camps urged Mr Santer to take full responsibility for an epidemic of fraud. irregularities, cronvism and mismanagement that the auditors found rampant in the

The buck stops with Mr Santer and he cannot avoid his responsibility." Pauline Green, the British Labour MEP who heads the Socialist Group, the largest bloc in the

European Parliament, said. Alan Donnelly, leader of the Labour Party in the Parliament, called on Mr Santer and Edith Cresson, the French Commissioner also severely criticised, to stand down. "If the credibility of the Commission and the European Union itself. " he said of Mr Santer.

Edward McMillan-Scott, Conservative leader in the Parliament. said: "The Commission must go tonight." Some MEPs said that the

resignations of Mme Cresson and Mr Santer were the minimum needed to clear the air after the report.

Whether Mr Santer resigns or others stand down separately, the credibility of the Commission President's administradon was shredded by the auditors' report. The upheaval in Brussels comes at a critical time for the EU as government leaders are due to gather in Berlin next week to negotiate a major six-year reform to Et I spending.

The auditors' report was also claimed last night as vin-

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CROSSWORDS26. 52



Jacques Santer: under pressure to clear the air

dication by Paul van Buitenen, the Commission auditor who blew the whistle to the European Parliament last December on corrupt practices in the Commission and was suspend-

ed for his pains. The auditors concluded that fraud and corruption had passed unnoticed while Commissioners denied that they had been aware of what was going on in their areas. "Protpart of Commissioners are tantamount to an admission of a loss of control by the political authorides over the administration that they are supposedly running, " the report said. This loss of control implies at the outset a heavy responsibilifor both the Commissioners individually and the Commis-

sion as a whole." No individual Commissioners were accused of personal dishonesty or illegal gain in the long-awaited report by senior European legal officials. but the investigators detailed a saga of of corrupt practices

and lax management As expected, Mme Cresson. received the harshest condemnation, for fraud carried out under her management and for appointing a dentist-friend to a well paid post for which he was not qualified.

In addition to the damning conclusions on his leadership, Mr Santer was blamed for failing to take any meaningful interest" in a scandal involving the Commission's internal security service, an affair now under police investigation. That situation had evolved into "a state within a state," said the auditors' team,

Court of Auditors. In blunt language that shocked senior Commission officials who had expected more measured treatment, the auditors concluded that a culture of cover-up and evasion of accountability pervaded the

led by Andre Middlehoek, a

former Dutch chief of the EU

Commission. In conclusion, the report said: "It is becoming difficult to find anyone who has even the slightest sense of responsibility. However, that sense of responsibility is essential. It must be demonstrated, first and foremost by the Commissioners individually and the Commission as a body. The cept of responsibility of all substance is a dangerous one. That concept is the ultimate

manifestation of democracy." Among other Commissioners criticised for abuses under their administration was Manuel Marin of Spain, who headed aid programmes that

suffered huge swindles. Examining charges of nepotism, the auditors also found that Monika Wulf-Mathies, a German Commissioner, had used inappropriate procedures to recruit a member of her personal staff.

Also named for irregulaties but not strongly criticised were Emma Bonino of Italy, in charge of humanitarian affairs, and Christos Papoutsis, the Greek Commissioner.

Arrogant Cresson, page 13 Leading article, page 19



Troops guarding the wreckage of Rosemary Nelson's BMW after it was blown up by a booby-trap device in Lurgan, co Armagh, yesterday

Car bomb threatens peace process



Rosemary Nelson: leading

THE car-bomb murder of a leading nationalist lawyer plunged Northern Ireland's peace process into deep crisis vesterday, and as darkness fell last night rioting erupted near the scene of the explosion in

Lurgan, Co Armagh. President Clinton was hoping to lay the groundwork for a breakthrough on IRA decommissioning when he meets Gerry Adams, the Sinn Fein president and David Trimble. Northern Ireland's First Minister, at the White House tomorrow, but Rosemary Nelson's killing makes it almost inconceivable that the IRA will agree to begin disarming before Good Friday's deadline.

The murder was widely blamed on loyalist paramili-taries, but Sinn Fein leaders openly accused the Royal Ulster Constabulary of collusion

By MARTIN FLETCHER, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT because Mrs Nelson had fought a number of high-pro-

file cases against the police. Nationalists took to the streets of Lurgan and youths hurled stones and petrol bombs at police and soldiers. This has deepened the cri-

sis, there is no doubt about that," said Martin McGuinness, Sinn Fein's chief negotiator. "This is a very, very serious development and all of us have to be very concerned."Sir Reg Empey, one of Mr Trimble's closest allies, said that if loyalists were responsible "all they have done is hand to the republican movement a propaganda victory on a plate".

Mrs Nelson, 40, was killed by a boobytrap device beneath her silver BMW car. It exploded seconds after she drove away from her home in a nationalist housing development

on Lurgan's northern fringe at 12.40pm. Her eight-year-old daughter was at lunch in her primary school 100 yards away and her two sons were on a school trip in France.

The car slewed sideways into a hedge. Its doors and windows were blown out, scattering debris across the road. Firemen used hydraulic equipment to cut Mrs Nelson out and she was rushed to Craigavon hospital with severe leg and abdominal injuries. She died in the intensive care unit at 3.10pm with her husband at her side.

Mirs Nelson had just returned from a weekend in County Donegal and her car had stood unattended outside her house during that time. Mrs Nelson's work had made her an obvious target.

Continued page 2. col 3



Lurgan protest: masked men took to the streets

Police arrest Muslim cleric in dawn swoop

By Daniel McGrory, Stephen Farrell and Bill Frost

LETTERS OBITUARIES21 LIBBY PURVES......18 ARTS CHESS & BRIDGE ... 45 COURT & SOCIAL20 IN BUSINESS... BUSINESS.



THE radical Muslim cleric, Abu Hamza al-Masri, was being questioned last night by anti-terrorist squad officers after being arrested in a dawn raid at his West London home. Scotland Yard detectives seized two other Muslim activ-

ists as part of their inquiries into terrorist activity abroad. Yemeni authorities accuse Mr al-Masri, a half-blind veteran of the Afghan wars, of involvement in the kidnap of 16 Western tourists which ended in the death of three Britons and an Australian last December. Two of his sons, and others from his London-based Supporters of Sharia group. are on trial for a plot to bomb British targets in Aden. The Egyptian-born Mr al-Masri. 40, has denied any links with these attacks.

The three men arrested yesterday are all Egyptian. Yassir al-Serri, 39, runs the Islamic Observatory Centre in Maida Vale, northwest London, but the identity of the third man. aged 36, and from London, British Muslim leaders last

night condemned the raids and held an urgent meeting to plan a protest. They are expect-ed to demonstrate today outside Charing Cross police station where the three are held. Lawyers for the men are de-

manding to know why the police staged dawn raids on their family homes. One legal source said: "Both Hamza and Serri took part in a demonstration outside the gates of Down-ing Street on Friday. They are very high-profile and the police could have asked to speak Continued on page 2, col l



knew everybody else would be in black tie

Penguin Prince The Prince of Wales visited Sea Lion Island, most southerly of the Falklands, which has 40,000 penguins...

Straw will set terms for Bulger's killers

BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

JACK STRAW is to set a new minimum jail term for the two boys convicted of murdering James Bulger in spite of a European Commission of Human Rights ruling yesterday that political involvement in sentencing breached their hu-

The Home Secretary will make his announcement later this year as the European Court of Human Rights hears an appeal that Robert Thompson and Jon Venables were denied a fair trial. At present the boys are detained indefinitely with no minimum term laid

down. The full hearing will come after yesterday's ruling that the trial in 1993 was a "severely intimidating procedure" for both boys, then aged

The ruling was condemned by Denise Fergus, the mother James, who was battered to death. She said she was sickened that the case would not go away. Sean Sexton, her solicitor, said she wished to be left alone to get on with her

Legal changes, page 4 Leading article, page 19

Widow was starved

A doctor who ordered nursing home staff to starve an 85-year-old widow and to let her "slip away" was accused of serious professional muis-

conduct. The woman died 58 days af-

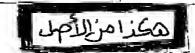
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6:00PM NEWS



NOW ON (5)

(REPEATED 6:30PM ON ITV)



No question, this can happen anywhere, sauna or later

t was good of the Home Office Minister Kate Hooey to sport a silky Thai-style kimono-cum-hostess-gown at Questions yester-day. Sadly the veteran backbench Labour MP, Joe Ashion (Bassellaw) was not there to see her. He also missed Margaret Beckett, the House Leader, wearing a rather severe Mao-collared tunic-suit in the Oriental style, in a shade of hlushing peach-blos-

Still, the rest of us turned up. And what luck! It was Home Office Questions. Ouite apart from the Ashton percerinations, this was the chance for MPs to raise that morning's recommendation from the European Commission of Human Rights, on the James Bulger trial.

Nobody mentioned it. One wonders what planet MPs live on. Like a scratched CD, and regardless of what's actually in the news, they just keep repeating the same old themes: police numbers, bob-hies-on-the-beat, drugs, animal cruelty . . .

Maybe they forgot Bulger. Each exercised a favourite bee

in the bonnet, Norman Baker (Lib Dem, Lewest complained to the Home Secretary that prisoners in Lewes were shouting obscenities from their cell windows at horrified shoppers below. The minister said the authorities are now closing inmates' windows. Someone should close Mr Baker's.

Still, there would surely be mention of the mystery surrounding Mr Ashton's adventures at the Thai House and Siam Sauna? Why was he

This sketchwriter lougs to believe that Mr Ashton did



have a massage, as the relax-ing effect of this treatment may explain the recent liberalisation of the MP's views on

Before his visit to Northampton, Mr Ashton was against an equal age of consent, saying he feared exploitation of the young. But after Northampton he must have changed his mind because at

the end of January Mr Ashton voted for lo as the age of consent. The Stonewall gay lobbying group should send complementary Thai parlour vouchers to other moral conservatives in both Houses, in case a little massage loosens them

But back to the Commons. where slavering journalists placed bets on who would

first raise the affair. A number of questions on the Order Paper could be twisted that way. but the most propitions was Question II: Jenny Jones (Lab, Wolverhampton SW) wanted to know the Home Secretary's. plans "to review the law on kerb-crawling". Her question, when reached, turned to a discussion on the exploitation of young women.

And nobody mentioned Northampton The words.
"Thai", "massage" and "par-lour found no lips to frame them. Nobody even winked. When the MP for Northampton N. Sally Keeble (Lab) rose to ask about crime in shopping centres, shopping centres were where Ms Keeble

What a po-faced lot our MPs have become, now the Tories are no longer the target. Not a giggle, not a smile from the government benches. Labour whips will have put the screws on backbenchers, insisting there should be no mention of Mr Ashton and his travels - even by way of

As for the Tories, what a wealth of secret shame lay be-

neath their oh-so courteous discretion. "Hodie tibi - cras mihi" is their precautionary motto: to you today, to me to-

morrow. Were the House of Commons to be adapted for light operetta, this would have been the point at which the entire massed choir of Conservative backbenchers rose in a soft background chorus: There but for the grace of God go we," as, to the fore, Ron Davies belts out I am what I nm: and the Government front bench looks sheep

Last-ditch effort to delay ban on duty-free

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

BRITAIN will join Germany in a last-ditch attempt to delay the end of duty-free sales for travellers inside Europe after European Union ministers failed yesterday to come close to agreeing to delay the abolition of the industry.

Gerhard Schröder, the German Chancellor, will raise the prospects for a last-minute reprieve when he meets Tony Blair in London today to prepare for next week's EU summit in Berlin. However. German officials were pessimistic about the chances of success after strong opposition from the finance ministers of six EU states in Brussels yesterday. A unanimous vote by all 15

governments is needed to renew discussion of the decision, taken in 1991, to end duty-free sales for travellers crossing the EU's internal sea and air

PROTEST STRIKE

Tourists and lorry-drivers found their travel plans in chaos as French portworkers in Calais went on 24-hour strike in protest at the planned abolition of duty-free shopping, which they say will cost jobs. Ferry-workers block-ed the port and halted traffic through the Chan-nel Tunnel: the blockades L WORK ers also marched through Calais and blockaded a motorway in Rennes.

Cleric held

Continued from page I to them at any time, so why

burst into bedrooms when

their children are there. Why

the heavy-handed tactics? Sev-en of Mr al-Masri's children, all under 12, were inside the

terraced house at Shepherds

His Moroccan second wife

and other women relatives

were led away by police as fo-

rensic experts moved in.
Other detectives towed

away his left-hand drive car.

equipped with attachments to

enable him to drive using his

metal arms. He had lost both

hands in a bomb blast in Af-

Mr al-Serri. 39, who is also

known as Abu Ammar,

claimed he was dragged from

Bush when h was raided.

frontiers on July 1. Demonstrators in Brussels and a Channel port stoppage by ferry work-ers yesterday failed to sway the determination of ministers from Denmark, Finland, Belgium, Holland, Portugal and

Italy to end the perk.
"We tried to reach a unanimous agreement but, on the contrary, there was a majority against," said Werner Müller, the German Economics Minister. " I do not have much hope. The majority is against and the Commission does not want it," he added.

Gordon Brown, the Chancelfor, acknowledged that prospects were fading for extending the deadline, but the Government was still worried about the impact to jobs and the likely confusion over how to apply duoes in sea and air crossings between states with widely differing tax levels.

EU officials said a decision would be needed by the end of this month if the industry were to be reprieved because of the time required to reverse the existing legislation.

Mario Mono, the Commissioner responsible for taxation, repeated the Commission's determination to end what it considers to be an anomaly in the EU's customsfree single market. "There is no such thing as a duty-free purchase because the taxes are paid by other must put an end to a situation where ordinary European ciozens are paying for other people's duty free."

Al-Masri: seized at dawn

his bedroom after police broke

Scotland Yard described the

arrests as "peaceful" and had been planned for some ome.

"It is part of an ongoing opera-tion into terrorism abroad."

down his door.



Rosemary Nelson, with folder, after Downing Street talks on the Portadown standoff

Nationalists' heroine had dangerous foes

By MARTIN FLETCHER, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

ROSEMARY NELSON had received many deaths threats in recent years, but had ignored them all. Nobody would bother killing her, she used to say.

But Mrs Nelson was an obvious target for loyalist ex-tremists. She had represented the nationalist residents of Portadown's Garvaghy Road, who have refused to let the Orange Order complete its annual Drumeree church parade.

Another client was Colin Duffy, who was accused of KUC onecers in 1997, but had charges against him dropped, and she had also represented the family of Robert Hamill, a young Catholic man beaten to death

by loyalists in Portadown in 1997 in full view of the police. She took up issues no one else would touch." said Delores Kelly, deputy mayor of Craigavon.

Republicans were quick to assert that Mrs Nelson was also an obvious target for the Royal Ulster Constabulary, saying that her murder was a repeat of that of Pat Finucane. the nationalist solicitor killed ten years ago by loyalists acting, republicans insist, in collusion with the security forces. Mrs Nelson joined a high-profile campaign for a judicial inquiry into Mr Finucane's murder.

the RUC, and accused officers of spitting in her face and hitting her with a riot shield.

"Ann Cadwallader, a Belfast journalist and close friend of Mrs Nelson, said that the law-

yer had worried only about the safety of her clients. "She was a very angry per-son and threw herself life and

soul into her work. She be-lieved passionately in upholding the rule of law and fighting for justice for her clients." Ms Cadwallader said. Mrs Nelson was raised in

University in Belfast and married to Paul Nelson, an accountant. Their two sons are aged 13 and 11, and their merous complaints against daughter eight.

Car bomb threat to peace

Mrs Nelson had lodged nu-

Continued from page ! She represented the nationalist residents of Portadown's

Garvaghy Road, who blocked the Orange Order's annual Drumcree parade last July, and met Tony Blair at Downing Street on the residents' behalf last month.

She represented Colin Duffy, a republican who was accused of murdering two policemen in Lurgan in 1997, but against whom charges were dropped. She represented the family of Robert Hamill, a Portadown Catholic beaten to death by loyalists while the police allegedly looked on, and was in the process of prosecut-ing the police over the case. She had also filed numerous

formal complaints of police

harassment and intimidation. Suspicion immediately fell on two loyalist splimer groups, the Orange Volunteers and Red Hand Defenders, who have been attacking Catholic homes with primitive to succeed." devices in recent weeks. But

bomh was very sophisticated and claimed the security forces had systemaocally targeted human rights campaigners. Within two hours of Mrs Nelson's death, a crowd of 200 had marched from the town's nationalist Kilwilkee estate to Lurgan's police station where John O'Dowd, a Sinn Fein councillor, said those koking for Mrs Nelson's murderers

Mr Blair condemned what

"should look no further".

Mr McGuinness said this

he called a "disgusting act of brutality". He said: "The sole aim of the murderers is to remove any chance of reconciliation. They will not be allowed

Most of Northern Ireland's poliocal leaders were in Wash-ington for what will now be muted celebrations of St Patrick's Day tomorrow. Without a downpayment of IRA weapons before Good Friday. Mr Trimble will not admit Sinn Fein to government and the peace accord faces collapse. Gerry Adams. Sinn Fein's president, drew parallels with the 1989 murder of Pat Finucane, another prominent republican solicitor killed by loyalists with the alleged collusion of the security forces.

Marks & Spencer pulls GM products

BY NICK NUTTALL AND PHILLP WEBSTER

off shelf

MARKS & SPENCER announced yesterday that it is taking all genetically modified foods off its shelves. In response to consumer concern, it was removing all GM ingredients from St Michael products.

A spokesman said: "Al-though we believe there is a place for genetic modification, customers are concerned about the speed at which these developments are being pushed through." M&S would continue to monitor develop-ments in GM technology "and will consider any opportuni-ties which bring direct benefit to our customers".

The move came amid further indications from the Government that geneocally modi-fied crops are unlikely to be planted commercially for at least three years. Although the industry accused the Govern-ment of trying to pressurise it into a three-year freeze, minis-ters confirmed privately that that would be the outcome of discussions going on with leading manufacturers.

The day after Lord Sainsbury, the Science Minister, welcomed the prospect of a voluntary deal with the industry, seed companies reacted with surprise to suggestions that they had already agreed to a moratorium. Some of them, including Novartis and Zeneca, denied they had put commercial exploitation on hold. A spokesman for AgrEvo, which has a herbicide tolerant oil seed ready for farmers, said vesterday: "It is totally untrue to suggest we have done a secret deal." The industry sus pects someone in government or from a pressure group planted reports at the weekend to put pressure on companies

to agree to a three-year ban. On Sunday, the Government also denied that a "se-cret" deal had been done. However, ministers are hoping for an arrangement under which the companies will agree that for environmental and poliocal reasons there will be no planting for three years. Senfor ministers confirmed that Environment Department officials were in talks with the industry and suggested that the likeliest result would be an ef-

fective agreement not to plant the crops before 2002. Tony Blair has made plain that there will be no ban but it is clear that ministers do not expect to have conclusive results from tests to allow planting for three years. A three-year ban would take some of the heat off ministers by satisfying the demands being made by green groups, water firms and English Nature, the Gov-ernment's wildlife advisers.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Peers undermine £2bn rebate battle

A parliamentary committee undermined Tony Blair's battle to save Britain's £2 hillion rebate from the European Union. With Gerhard Schröder, the German Chancellor, due at Downing Street today to prepare for next week's EU summit on the budget, the all-party House of Lords Select Committee on the European Communities suggested Mr. Blair should put the cashback deal into the negotiations to help to reform the budget. Mr Blair's press spokesman suggested last night that the Government's position was uncompromising. Even with the rebate, Britain remained the fifth largest contributor and was only the tenth richest EU country, he said.

Games 'need cash aid

Organisers of the 2002 Commonwealth Games in Manchester told MPs they needed more help from the Government to stage the event. The Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee heard that the cost of staging the ten-day games had risen from an original estimate of £58 million to £70-£90 million. There are growing fears that, without more govern-ment support, the event could lose millions of pounds, with local council taxpayers picking up the bill.

'Runny nose' secret

Scientists have discovered what causes a chronically runny nose, one symptom of a condition that leads to thousands of deaths. They have isolated the "biological trigger" that causes uncontrolled mucus production in the lungs and airways. Victims of hypersecretory diseases such as cystic fibrosis and chronic bronchitis literally drown in their own secretions. American scientists believe that they will now be able to control the condition through drugs.

Life sentence for rapist

A "psychopathic" teenager was told he will spend the rest of his life in prison after he admitted raping a 92-year-old wid-ow. Philip Green, 19, of Llanishen. Cardiff, attacked the woman, an Austrian Jew who had fled to Britain during the Nazi occupation, after sniffing 13 tins of butane lighter fuel and breaking into the woman's house. Green admitted two charges of rape, aggravated burglary and grievous bodily harm with intent.

Crying clue to Aids

Tears and saliva contain a powerful antidote to HIV. scientists have found. The discovery, by scientists at the New York University Medical Centre, may explain why the virus cannot be transmitted by saliva and could pave the way for an entirely new type of treatment for the disease. The finding comes from a free-year study into why the urine of presing comes from a five-year study into why the urine of pregit women is effective in controlling the reproduction of the HTV virus in an infected person.

Boyzone baby

The Boyzone pop singer Ronan Keating, 22, became a father yesterday. His wife, Yvonne, a 25-year-old model, gave birth to a boy weighing 10th 4oz at Mount Carmel Hospital, Dublin. The couple have named the baby Jack. Keating said:
"Both mum and baby are both healthy and strong, a wee bit tired but very happy." The couple married in the Caribbean last year after a short romance, although they have been friends for many years.

Dr Philip Sugarman

A report ("Psychiatrist gave warning of Stone's killing fantasies", October 24) on the conviction of Michael Stone for the murders of Lin and Megan Russell stated that a few days before the murders Stone had visited the Trevor Gibbens Unit in Maidstone, where he was an outpatient under the care of Dr Philip Sugar-man, and told Dr Sugarman he had been fantasising about killing children. The article also stated that, concerned that he might harm someone, Stone had asked to be admitted to the unit, but was refused a bed. We now understand, and accept, that both statements were incorrect. In fact, Stone did not even see Dr Sug-arman at that particular time. We apologise unreservedly to Dr Sugarman for any implication that he had failed in his duty to take the necessary steps to protect the public from the danger that Stone posed, and for any embarrassment which Dr Sugar-

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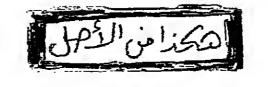
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Doctor told nurses to starve widow

Patient took 58 days to die, writes Michael Horsnell

A DOCTOR who ordered nursing home staff to starve an 85-year-old woman and to let her "slip away" was ac-cused of serious professional misconduct yesterday.

Some staff defied him and continued to give Mary Ormerod her prescribed food supplement until the supply ran out. But she died 58 days after the nutrition had been with-

Mrs Ormerod, a widow, was said to have been "skin and bone" when she died in August 1995 at Oxford House nursing home, Preston, weigh-

Ken Taylor, 51, instructed murses and care assistants to withdraw the supplement Fresubin two months earlier, the professional conduct commitee of the General Medical Council was told.

Mrs Ormerod, a bedridden patient who had suffered a series of strokes, had not lost her swallowing reflex and communicated by squeezing the nurses' hands. They were said to be dismayed at the doctor's instruction and demanded that he put it in writing.

After the death of Mrs Ormerod, a Roman Catholic with four daughters, a nurse reported the case to police. They conducted a murder inquiry on behalf of the coroner, but the Crown Prosecution Service decided not to take

Rosalind Foster, counsel for the GMC, told the hearing that she was hoping to "avoid terms like euthanasia" be-

Dr Taylor, a former nurse who qualified as a doctor in 1974 and ran Ashton health centre in Preston, is accused of knowing that the withdrawal of the food supplement would or might hasten the death of his patient. She was said to have been in a stable condition before the withdrawal, although she could not speak or

move her limbs. The doctor told staff that flu-is should be administered. but, when he stopped the Fresubin, which was given orally by syringe, June Bleasdale, the deputising matron, asked him to record his decision in the

patient's nursing care plan. Ms Bleasdale, who will be giving evidence, told him that she disagreed with his instruc-tion and would have no part in carrying in out.

Dr Taylor, who denies mis-

conduct, admits that he did



Ken Taylor: denies

leaked sex raid story By Paul Wilkinson and Philip Webster

MP says

officers

caught in a Thai massage par-lour during a police raid de-nied yesterday that he had tak-en part in or paid for sexual services. He accused police of-turns of leaking durans of the incident to the press.

Joe Ashton, the 65-year-old

member for Bassellaw in the East Midlands, said that his lawyers were considering asking the Police Complaints Aucident at the Thai House and Siam Sauna in Northampton appeared in the Sunday papers.
His statement, issued from his home, however, failed to explain what he was doing at the

The outspoken backbencher denied reports suggesting that he had given a false name and address when questioned and that he was traced through his car registration. Three other men are on bail after their arrest last November in the police raid on the premises, situated between a church and a fish and chip shop.

A number of women were

also detained by officers, who were investigating complaints that some had been forced to work on the premises against their will. Seven have been deported to Thailand. Five others who are legally entitled to live in Britain were released.

Yesterday Mr Ashton, once an award-winning journalist and today a campaigner for tougher laws on privacy to protect the lives of public funder broke the silence he had observed since the reports began circulating at the weekend.

He came to the gate of his house in Sheffield where he lives with Margaret, his wife of 42 years, to issue the brief print-



Joe Ashton outside his home yesterday. "I did not pay for sexual services," he said

Woman sues over surprise baby

By JOANNA BALE

A MOTHER is claiming £200,000 compensation from a gynaecologist who preulate her menstrual cycle after allegedly failing to detect that she was pregnant

By the time Pauline Mattacks, 46, discovered that she was expecting a baby, it was too late for an abortion and she gave birth to a boy. Simon,

Ms Mattacks told the High Court yesterday that she would have had a termination had Chineze Otigbah, of St Bartholomew's Hospital, London, diagnosed the pregnancy when she went to see her in January 1995 complaining of irregular and heavy periods.

Dr Otigbah prescribed norethisterone, which can cause masculinisation of female foe-tuses. Ms Mattacks, then 42, took the drug for three months until her pregnancy was confirmed by a test by her GP.

Her pregnancy, at 24 weeks was too far advanced for termination. Her son was born healthy that August. Ms Mattacks, who also has a son aged II, lives on income support She is claiming the cost of

bringing up the boy.

She said that her relationship with his father had been "casual" and that she had used a contraceptive only "occasionally" because she had thought she might be menopausal. When she missed periods, she had two home pregnancy tests which were negative. She ascribed symptoms including weight gain to the drug.

Dr Otigbah told the court: "If there was any iota of doubt in my mind about whether she was pregnant I would have done the pregnancy test." She and the Royal Hospitals NHS Trust deny liability. The

Clerk stole money to take work courses

BY SIMON DE BRETRELLES

A COUNCIL derk who embezzled nearly £18,000 and spent some of the money on courses to improve her promotion prospects was yesterday given a suspended jail sentence.

Hayley Latham. 24. a payroll clerk with South Pensbrokeshire County Council in Wales, created "ghost" employees and pocketed their salaries for almost a year.

She had been promoted from a typing job to become secretary to the council's head of personnel, but when she was transferred to the finance department without any training she felt "at sea". Swansca Crown Court was told.

Latham, from Haverford-west, admitted five counts of theft and was given an 18-month suspended sentence. Her barrister, Andrew Clemes, said: "She knows that she acted dishonestly and she

felt some relief when she was discovered. Passing senience, Robert Britton, the Recorder, said that it was "an extremely seri-

Stuntman flies into a real-life drama

BY SIMON DE BRUXELLES

A STUNIMAN who once tried to jamp its: River Avon in a car towing a caravan had an unscheduled brush with death when his aircraft's cogine failed while he was being examined for a pilot's licence.

Andrew Aish was flying solo, above the Black Mountains in Wales on the last leg of a 100-mile test flight when his Cessna began to

Mr Aish, 41, from Taumton in Somerset, hedge-hopped into a field where he crash-landed at over 90 mph. The £25,000 aircraft, owned by Haverfordwest School of Flying. was a write-off after losing its undercarriage and then skidding nose first through a row of trees. With

fuel leaking from the tanks, Mr Aish made a hasty exit and walked away with cuts and bruises.

prior approval of the courts, when he allegedly should have done so. He also stands ac-

cused of failing to reassess

Mrs Ormerod's condition dur-

ing the eight weeks that she

. Miss Foster said: "It is not possible to detect what it was

that caused Dr Taylor to order the withdrawal of nutrition."

Dr Taylor told police: "In view

of her medical condition and

history of strokes, I fully ex-

pected her to have another

stroke which could prove fa-

tal." He gave the cause of death as brain failure.

said: "I believe that my care

was ethical and appropriate. I did not kill [Mrs Ormerod]

and my actions did not unethi-

cally nor callously lead to her

at no time did any nurses or

other persons disagree to my

face or in my hearing about

the way I was treating her."
He added: "I judged that

feeding was inappropriate

and believed that the time had

come to let her slip away. When she did not die within

Christina Atkinson, who

was matron at the time, said

she was "aghast" when, eight months before Mrs Ormerod's

death. Or Taylor initially sug-gested the food be stopped. She opposed the idea and he

allowed her to carry on with

The hearing continues to-

days, I was perturbed."

"I unequivocally state that

In a letter to the GMC, he

He said crashing the Cessna was much more frightening than plunging into the Avon at Tewksbury and having to be rescued by divers. "I could see the trees rushing towards me. There was no way I could avoid them. I thought it was curtains. "Most pilots go through their fly-ing careers without facing such an

emergency. It's happened to me af-ter just 60 hours flying and when I was within two hours of qualifying." He reported the accident from a farmhouse and police took him to Shobdon airfield. He was collected



Aish: crashed into a field and through a row of trees

school and took the controls on the flight back to Haverfordwest.

He had been waiting since December for suitable weather for his cross-country solo flight, which involves navigating a triangular route with landings at two airfields, and plans to retake the test tomorrow. by another aircraft from the flying

War crimes trial is told of deaths of 15 Jewish women known as the sand hills where they

BY TIM JONES

SWEEPING his arms from side to side as though discharging a sub-machine gun, an elderly greyhaired man yesterday described how as a youth he hid in bushes and watched about 15 half- naked women being murdered.

Fedor Zan. 76. told Britain's first war crimes trial he had been walking through the woods near the viilage of Domachevo, Belarus, when he heard the sounds of crying and shouting. As he crouched in his hiding place, he said, he saw Anthony Sawoniuk order the women to undress as he stood over them armed with a weapon.

When they were down to their underwear, he said, Mr Sawoniuk,

whom he knew as Andrusha, ordered them to turn around and face a pre-dug pit.

Mimicking the sounds of rapid fire, he added: "After they had turned, he immediately mowed them down with the machine gun and they fell into the pir. Once that had happened. I ran off."

Andrusha, he said, was on his own as he murdered the wailing women. "I recognised him by his size and his face. He was famous by that time. And it was light, the sun

was still in the sky." The mass execution, he said, took place a few days after the main massacre in the village in September 1942 when 2,900 men, women and children had been rounded up from the ghetto and herded to an area were stripped and shot. He said that Andrusha, who is al-

leged to have taken part in a search and kill operation to round up the Jews who escaped death on that day, was one of the first to join the local police force established by the Germans after they had occupied the village in 1941.

As Mr Zan gave his evidence through an interpreter. Mr Sawoniuk, 78, gave no indication he had ever known him. Mr Sawoniuk, a reored British Rail ticket collector from South London, denies four charges of murder. The trial, at the Old Bailey, continues.

The jury was reduced to 11 members yesterday, after a woman juror fell ill and was taken to hospital.

Fundraiser is sacked in dispute over cathedral restaurant

BY RUTH GLEDHUL RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE head of visitor services at

Salisbury Cathedral has been sacked for "gross misconduct" in a dispute about fundraising plans.

Barry Mason, who successfully boosted income from visitors by £350,000 — 40 per cent — in 12 months, is appealing to the Bishop of Salisbury, the Rt Rev David Standiffe, the cathedral visitor, to overrule the dismissal.

Mr Mason, 49, who joined the cathedral a year ago, was sacked after he defied orders from the Dean and Chapter to keep plans for an expansion of the cathedral restaurant a guarded secret. He disthe proposals informally

with architects and planners before a chapter meeting next week. Mr Mason, who has previously

worked for the Tate, the National Portrait Gallery and the Museum of London, had aroused earlier criticism from some of the cathedral bierarchy by introducing an alcohol licence to the restaurant.

The Plummery, a temporary structure on the south side of the cathedral, currently seats 30 people and there are sometimes queues when the cashedral, which attracts 700,000 visitors a year, is busy. Un-

der the refurbishment plans there would be seating for 240. Mr Watson admitted last night that he was aware that he had broken an edict from the Dean, the

Very Rev Derek Watson, and the Chapter to keep the plans confiden-tial. But he claimed he had been motivated by enthusiasm and was dumbfounded by the response. "I thought gross misconduct meant stealing or an assault or a sexual

impropriety." be said. "I had no idea it could be used to get rid of someone on the grounds they were doing their job rather too well." As head of visitor services, Mr

Mason helped to boost visitor in-come from about £1 million to £1.4 million. Income from The Plummery accounts for about £30,000.

Mr Mason recently offered places in the cathedral tower for a champagne breakfast to see the summer solstice in June and a champagne brunch to witness the solar eclipse in August. He described the plans for the restaurant, by the architects Munchen, Beck and Marshall, as

visionary.

A cathedral spokesman said of the dismissal: "The Chapter office is satisfied that all proper procedures were strictly adhered to both leading up to and during the discipli-

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Bulger ruling may force court changes

BRITAIN could be forced to change the way it tries juveniles accused of serious crimes after the European Commission of Human Rights ruled yesterday that the boys convicted of murdering James Bulger were denied a fair trial.

The commission, based in Strasbourg, said that the way Robert Thompson and Jon Venables faced a full adult Crown Court meant they had been prevented from effectively participating in their trial. But it rejected claims that their trial amounted to inhuman and degrading treatment out-lawed by the European Con-

vention on Human Rights.

Thompson and Venables, both now aged 16, are to take their appeal to the European Court of Human Rights in a hearing expected later this year. The court has no power to overturn their convictions for murder.

Last night, as the Home Office said it would contest the ruling. James's mother. Denise Fergus, condemned the commission's decision and accused the boys of trying to get

The Home Office will contest Euro judges' view that boys were denied a fair trial, reports Richard Ford

increased by the then Lord

by Michael Howard, then the

Home Secretary, to 15 years.

Mr Howard was later de-

clared to have acted unlawfully and the tariff was set

Thompson and Venables

are currently detained in local

authority secure accommoda-tion in the North of England.

Later this year Jack Straw, the

away from their "vile and monline. The boys, both from Merstrous" crime on a legal techniseyside, were convicted of murcality. She said: "They say they der at Preston Crown Court were unfairly treated - why and sentenced to be held at Her Majesty's pleasure.
The trial judge set a mini-mum tariff of eight years for "retribution and deterrence" didn't they stop the case when

it was going on, instead of wait-ing six years before they say it? "I don't think they were unfairly treated in any way. They had top lawyers, workers, care workers; they had the best of everything. So how can they say they were unfairly treat-

Thompson and Venables were aged ten when they abducted James, who was two, from a shopping centre in Bootle on Merseyside in 1993. They battered him to death and left his body on a railway

www.dbcoar.coe.fr The European Court of Human Rights's website carries the European Commission of Human Rights's report into the boys' cases

new minimum jail term. The commission ruled by 14 votes to five that the boys had not received a fair trial in 1993. "It considers that the public trial process in an adult court with attendant publicity must be regarded in the case of an II-year-old child as a severely intimidating procedure," the

ruling said.

It also upheld by 18 votes to one a complaint by the boys over the way in which their sentences had been increased by Mr Howard. It said his decision was a breach of their human rights because it had been taken by a politician and not an impartial tribunal.

If the full European Court of Human Rights backs the commission's rulings, the Government will be under pressure to change the way it tries and sen-tences juveniles convicted of murder, manslaughter, rape

and other serious offences. It could lead to juveniles charged with serious offences being tried in the more informal surroundings of the youth



Thompson and Venables at Preston Crown Court in 1993. The commission said that the boys were denied a fair trial

tary no longer being able to set a minimum term to be served

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Mr Straw said fast night that the Government had no plans to alter the way juveniles charged with serious crimes

iffs - minimum terms - were set by ministers.

Rex Makin, the solicitor for James's father, Ralph, said: "How the Bulger family are ex-pected to understand this decision is beyond comprehen-

couraged by the ruling. "I think the sentence and the trial knife in the wound of the parents, who have no opportunity proceedings raised substantial issues which couldn't be con-

every time there are movements in this saga." John Dickinson, the Sheffield-based solicitor represent-

to come to terms with the grief

Roger Scruton, page 18

Rest of **Formal** relies on trial hearings

BY FRANCES GIBB LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE trial of the two boys accused of murdering James Bulger prompted almost uni-versal criticism from countries where children are not tried in adult criminal courts. In continental Europe, chil-

family

dren onder the age of 14 are dealt with by family courts. The age of criminal responsibility is also usually higher than in Britain, where it is ten. In France the age is 13; in Germany, Austria and Italy 14; in 15; and in Spain and Portugal 16. In eastern Europe it ranges between 14 and 16.

A report in 1996 by Paul Cavadino, now policy director of the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders, urged a change in the way children who kill are dealt with. It found that, on average, 25 people a year unguilty of homicide in the Crown Courts. Mr Cavadino said of the Bulger trial: "Most foreign commentators were as-tonished that two 11-year-olds should be dealt with by a public, adult-style bearing in the

full glare of media coverage." Critics questioned at the time whether such young children were able to comprebend the complexities of a and trial; whether they should have appeared in the full glare of media coverage of Crown Court proceedings: whether their decision not to give evidence arose from fear of speaking in such a public fo rum; and whether it was right to lift reporting restrictions afnames and photographs to be widely publicised.

The British system of sentencing was also strikingly different from the rest of Europe. Mr Cavadino added. No offier European country has indeterminate sentences that are not judicially supervised. In France and The Netherlands, such sentences are reviewed cither annually or biennially by the judiciary, which can order the young person's condition-

According to a report by Justice, the human rights group, maximum sentences on chil-dren for homicide are lower elsewhere. In Austria and Germany. 15 years can be imposed in exceptional circumstances and in Sweden 18. years. But in Spain there is a maximum two-year education-al and rehabilative pro-gramme for under-l6s and a maximum of 12 years for 16 to

Mr Cavadino said the age of responsibility should be raised to at least 14 and, below that, children should be dealt with in a family proceedings

Europe rules were relaxed for boys'

sidered in this country," be

By RICHARD FORD HOME CORRESPONDENT

WHEN the youngest defend-ants in a murder case in England this century walked into were surrounded by the full grandeur of the English criminal law in action.

But the court authorities had made several concessions to the age of Jon Venables and Robert Thompson. A platform had been built in the dock to enable the trial judge to see the two 11-year-old, and extra chairs had been placed in the dock to allow a social worker to sit next to each child.

15. 7.

HOSEDAY IS IT

Sex taunts

drove out

lesbian'

PUBLISH ARTON

Venables and Thompson, ten at the time of the murder and 11 when brought to trial, had also been allowed to visit the High Edwardian-style courtroom previously in an attempt to make it less intimidating, and their lawyers and social workers had also prepared them for the trial by explaining court processes and would sit. Each day of the hearing began half an hour later than usual and finished 45



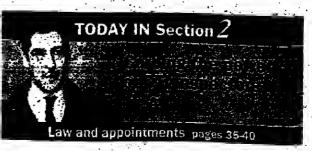
Mr Justice Morland: eased court conditions

minutes earlier. But the boys still had to walk the 24 steps from the cells to the dock. Mr Justice Morland, the trial judge, was fully wigged and in a scarlet robe. The barristers were also wigged and in tradi-tional black gowns. The bench was situated so

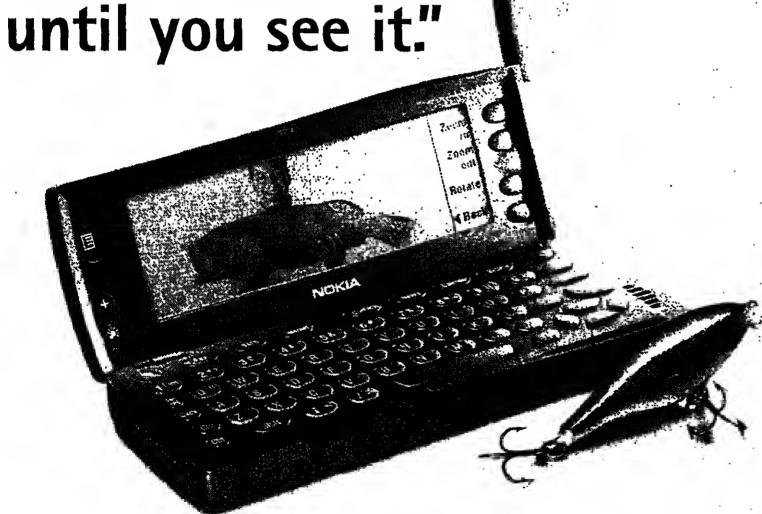
that the judge sat directly fac-ing the dock in the middle of the court. To the right of the dock sat the parents, who were close enough to touch at least one of the childen. On the other side of the court, seats had been reserved for James Bulg-

er's parents.
If the boys had been dealt with at a youth court, the procedures would have been more informal and the public, though not the media, would have been banned from attending. The boys would probably not have sat in a dock but in the well of the court behind their lawyers, with their parents beside or behind them, and the lawyers would have not have worn wigs or gowns. A magistrate would have excourt. For older children, hearings should be in private, bethem and there would have
fore a specially trained judge.

been regular breaks.



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Briton 'shocked' to find he had awarded draw, reports Adam Sherwin

THE British judge who awarded the draw that denied Lennox Lewis the undisputed world heavyweight boxing title said yesterday that he had made an "honest mistake".

Larry O'Connell said he felt Lewis had beaten Evander Holyfield on points in New York, and that he had been shocked to be told that his scorecard added up to a

He admitted that his scorecard did not accurately represent his analysis of the fight. "It was marginal but I felt that Lewis had won with his jab alone. It was as much a surprise to me as anyone else to be told that my own card showed a draw. My heart sank," Mr O'Connell said. The American judge gave the fight to Holyfield: the other judge. from South Africa, had Lewis as clear winner.

Mr O'Connell handed in his score for the rounds at the conclusion of each one. He did not keep a running total because he believed that would be "un-

ethical", hindering an objective analysis of each round. Mr O'Connell, an engraver from Hartley, Kent, who has officiated at boxing bouts for 23 years, apologised to the British boxer for denying him the title that he had covered for so long. "I feel very sorry for Lennox and for all the fans who paid money to see the fight."

Tony Banks, the Sports Minister, who had said that the decision was "very damaging" to boxing. "To hell with Tony Banks. I think they gave him the job to keep him quiet," Mr O'Connell said.

Awarding a draw was not in his nature, he added. "People think you are sitting on the

• I feel very sorry for Lennox and for all the fans who paid money to see the fight?

The 60-year-old grandfather was visibly upset that his actions had brought the wrath of the sporting world on his head. What is killing me is that I am British and we had a chance of getting an undisput-ed British world heavyweight champion. But I have to do the

He had strong words for

feel that you should be man enough to give a decision, but I did give a draw." Mr O'Connell said that there had been no attempt by Don King, the flamboyant fight promoter who stands to make millions of dollars from a rematch, to influence his

scoring. "I did not speak to Mr

King throughout the time 1

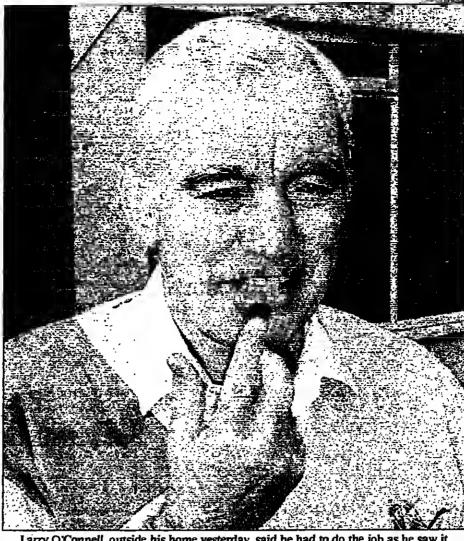
was in New York," he said. "I am a man of integrity and I do not belong to anybody or any promoter. If they don't like it. they can stuff it."

The judge, who was a boxer for 12 years, questioned Lewis's cautious factics during the fight, which he said had made it harder to award rounds to him. "Lennox waited too long to exploit opportu-nities that his left jab had

"There was one round where Holyfield didn't know where the next punch was coming from. But Lennox stood back and let Holyfield throw the next punch.

Mr O'Connell did not score rounds strictly according to the number of punches that connected, the statistics that have been widely quoted to prove Lewis's superiority. "I look for 'effective aggression' which fighter is hitting harder. There are no hard and fast rules to judging," he said.

Lewis's task, page 52



Larry O'Connell, outside his home yesterday, said he had to do the job as he saw it

New York may hold criminal inquiry

FROM JAMES BONG IN NEW YORK

NEW YORK authorities have begun invesogating the Lewis-Holyfield draw. Elint Spitzer. the New York State Attorney-General, was said to be deciding whether the facts merited a criminal investigation.

Mr Spitzer's spokesman said: "He has reached no determination yet, but he is cullcerned by the public impression that there was something flawed about the match." Mr Spitzer chairs a national task force of state attorneys-general that is investigating buxing and last month held three days of hearings in the city un the poor state of the sport.

George Pataki, the New York Governor, called on the New York State Athletic Commission, which regulates the sport, to "take a hard look" at

the judging. Mayor Rudolph Giuliani. a sports fan. said: "This is a travesty and it will hurt boxing." He feared that Britons at the fight would think New Yorkers were "a bunch of cheats".

Ahern the poet takes Ireland by surprise

BY AUDREY MAGEE IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

BERTIE AHERN, the Irish Prime Minister, was revealed last night as a talented poet with the publication of a new collection of work by Irish writers, artists, politicians and DOD Stars

Mr Ahern penned a poem entitled Whoseday Is It Today? for a diary aimed at raising £4 million for the Irish Hospice Foundation. The quality of the 15-line poem has surprised literary critics, who were impressed by his grasp of language

Eilean Ni Chuilleanain, head of English at Trinity College. Dublin, said that Mr Ahern displayed "great energy and thoughtfulness". Brian Cosgrove, head of English at Maynooth University, said he was "delighted to know we Laoiseach aware of the world of the im-

WHOSEDAY IS IT TODAY?

Whoseday is it today? to cry arrive, or slip away From shadowland to light and then to dark. Each one to make their presence felt

Deep in the ancient spring of Irishness Great talents spin and bubble to the too

in glant of ey, in tart-tang tongue To sing what we hold dear,

Celebrate from year to year. New ship upon the bay, new On old Styx way

Penny-bridge for your

Whose day is it loday? BERTIE AHERN



Mr Ahern's work won the praise of experts

agination as well as the world of politics".

Mr Ahem's poem is one of 366 pleces of poetry, prose and and adrenalin rush of a sta appearance, and Bob Geldof er, contributed a poem about Veronica Guerin, the mur-

arguing parents. In addition to works by the writers Iris Murdoch. Maeve Binchy and Roddy Doyle there are also contributions from Ulster politicians. John Hume, the SDLP leader, reprinted his 1979 speech on unity in diversity", while Ger-

The linen-bound book was the brainchild of John Wa-

artwork contributed to The Whoseday Book. Bono. the lead singer of U2. compares being born to the bright lights submitted a poem with the postscript "Will this do?". Christy Moore, the folk singdered journalist, and Marianne Faithfuli a poem about

ry Adams, the Sinn Fein leader, describes a hurling match.

ters, an Irish Times columnist. It goes on sale in I reland today and will be presented to President Clinton in Washington tomorrow. Organisers hope to sell 150,000 copies in the US and 50,000 in Ireland. Sales in Britain have yet to be

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Sex taunts 'drove out lesbian'

By CHRISTINE MIDDAP

A LESBIAN teacher was driven out of her job by six years of abuse and leasing from students about her sexuality, an employment tribunal was told yesterday. Shirley Pearce, 51, said that

(she was told by the head to "grit my teeth and face it" after she complained, and that the abuse continued until she retired through ill-health. Ms Pearce, who taught sci-

ence at Mayfield Secondary School in Portsmouth for more than 20 years, is claiming sexual discrimination against the governors. She says that they did not take effective action to stop the abuse.

"It was as if their attitude was almost, well, you are a lesbian, you should expect these comments," she said at the hearing in Southampton.

The tribunal was told that one boy, who had suggested that lesbians should be prosecuted, apologised after he was spoken to by the deputy head. Another pupil was suspended after cut food was left in Ms Pearce's jacket pocket. The hearing continues.

Teacher is jailed for pub brawl

By Russell Jenkins

A TEACHER praised in a recent Ofsted report was jailed for 12 months by Liverpool Crown Court yesterday for causing a drunken brawl in which a friend lost an eye. An argument had crupted

over football while he and two friends were watching a televised match in a pub. Jonathan Rice, 29, who teaches business studies, was

described in court as a magnifi-cent teacher who commanded the support of his colleagues at All Saints Roman Catholic High School in Kirkby, Merseyside. A pecition in his favour was signed by 800 pupils. But Judge David Maddison

told Rice that the offences, involving a premeditated and protracted attack on two men in a public place, were so serious that there was no alternative to a custodial sentence.

Rice, of Upton, Wirral, struck Andrew Ellis, 33, with such force that Mr Ellis's right eye had to be removed. Rice, with no previous convictions. denied inflicting grievous bodi-ly harm to Mr Ellis and assaulting Christopher Kelly, 32.

I just go where I'm told, says Prescott

JOHN PRESCOTT returns to his ministerial desk today after completing his gruelling official visit to India and the Maldive Islands. The Deputy Prime Minister will not have much time for his travel memories to fade before his next trip.

Wetsuits will make way for the bright lights in New York next month when Mr Prescott leads Britain's delegation at the Sixth Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, an II-day environmen-tal summit held at the United Nations. Officials at the Department of the Environment, Fransport and the Regions say that the li-day trip around the Indian Ocean furnished their boss with plenty of "first-hand dazzle the UN gathering.

The "high-level" Indian trip also gave Mr Prescott a taste of the high life which might cause some unease among old Hull comrades. It included flying first-class, visiting the Taj Mahal stelling tipers and div Mahal, stalking tigers and div-ing for coral. While his ministe-rial colleagues wrestled with transport tax rises in the Budget, the transport supremo was being driven around New Delhi in the High Commissioner's gas-guzzling Rolls-Royce. The visit cost British taxpay-

ers £55,000, but there were economies. The six officials and businessmen who accom-panied Mr Prescott settled for £173-a-night rooms at the five-



bay, while the hotel manager found a complimentary upgrade for Mr Prescott to the £1,358-a-night "presidential" suite. The Indian Ministry of Defence found a private jet to take him to the Taj Mahal, the white marble splendour of which will stay with Mr Pres-cott "for the rest of my life". The purpose behind the ex-

cursion was for Mr Prescott and his business guests to dis-cuss policies for dealing with air pollution and greenhouse-gas emissions and assisting in the building of India's infra-structure. Eight Indian ministers and the Prime Minister were ushered into the Prescott presence · "to cement rela-



The work schedule was suffi-ciently flexible to add a trip to We have much in common and much to learn from each the Ranthambore reserve to other." He dismissed accusations that he was living it up at see the Bengal tigers, a beast much lauded by Mr Prescott: taxpayers' expense. He "It was striding majestically to-

expect such things? I go where I'm told."

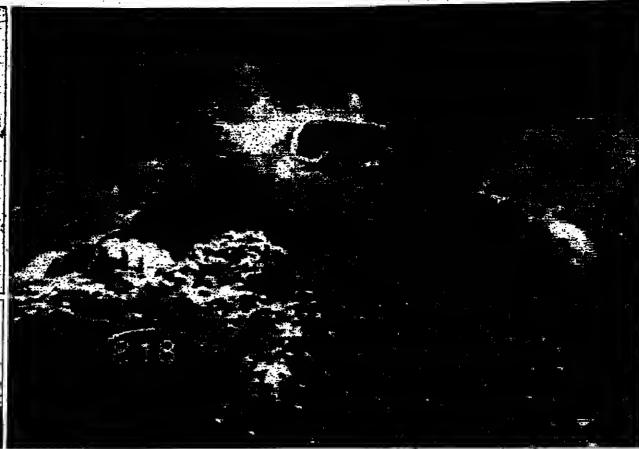
Mr Prescott remained buoyant while diving on a coral reef off the Maldives, when an illfitting facemask filled up with

diver, the Deputy Prime Minis-ter remained calm, cleared his by paying for taxis to bus stops: £50,000 for tiger conser-

mask and continued. There were some policy an-

scheme to help people in rural

vation; £300,000 for coral conservation with money from Clare Short's Department for International Development. Yard to



Taking the plunge: Mr Prescott surfaces yesterday, left, after trouble with his face mask and, above, inspects the damaged coral reef wards me out of the twilight. ing-class lads shouldn't really

Service chiefs endorse race code

BY MICHAEL EVANS DEFENCE EDITOR

THE three Service chiefs is-sued a further warning to mili-tary personnel yesterday that anyone guilty of racist behav-iour could be discharged.

The decision by the heads of the Royal Navy, Army and RAF to send a signal to all commanders came after last week's disclosure that two soldiers had been questioned by

diers had been questioned by police about suspected membership of the neo-Nazi group, Combat 18.

The chiefs said that "strict disciplinary procedures" would be used against anyone engaged "in the slightest form of racist behaviour."

The three chiefs, Admiral Sir Michael Boyce, General Sir Roger Wheeler and Air Chief Marshal Sir Richard Johns, have already complet-

Johns, have already completed a race relations course which all officers above the rank of brigadier must now undergo. Yesterday, in their joint signal, they said that the necessary powers already existed to deal with behaviour that was "incompatible with military service".

Such powers, they said, would be used to deal with cases of membership of, support for, or association with groups or organisations whose purposes include incitement to racial hatred or violence". The warning is intended to show that racial prejudice is now regarded as one of the gravest abuses of the military code.

The two soldiers, one of them from The Parachute Regiment, who were ques-tioned about Combat IS were released on bail. Fourteen homes were raided as part of

help black officers rise to top

By STEWART TENDLER CRIME CORRESPONDENT

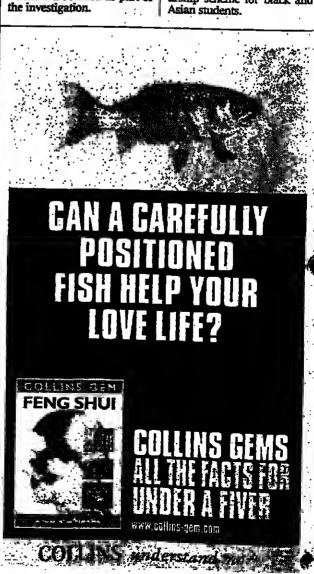
SPURRED by the Stephen Lawrence report, Scotland Yard yesterday began a campaign to increase the number of senior officers from ethnic minority backgrounds to reflect the are black, Asian or Chinese.

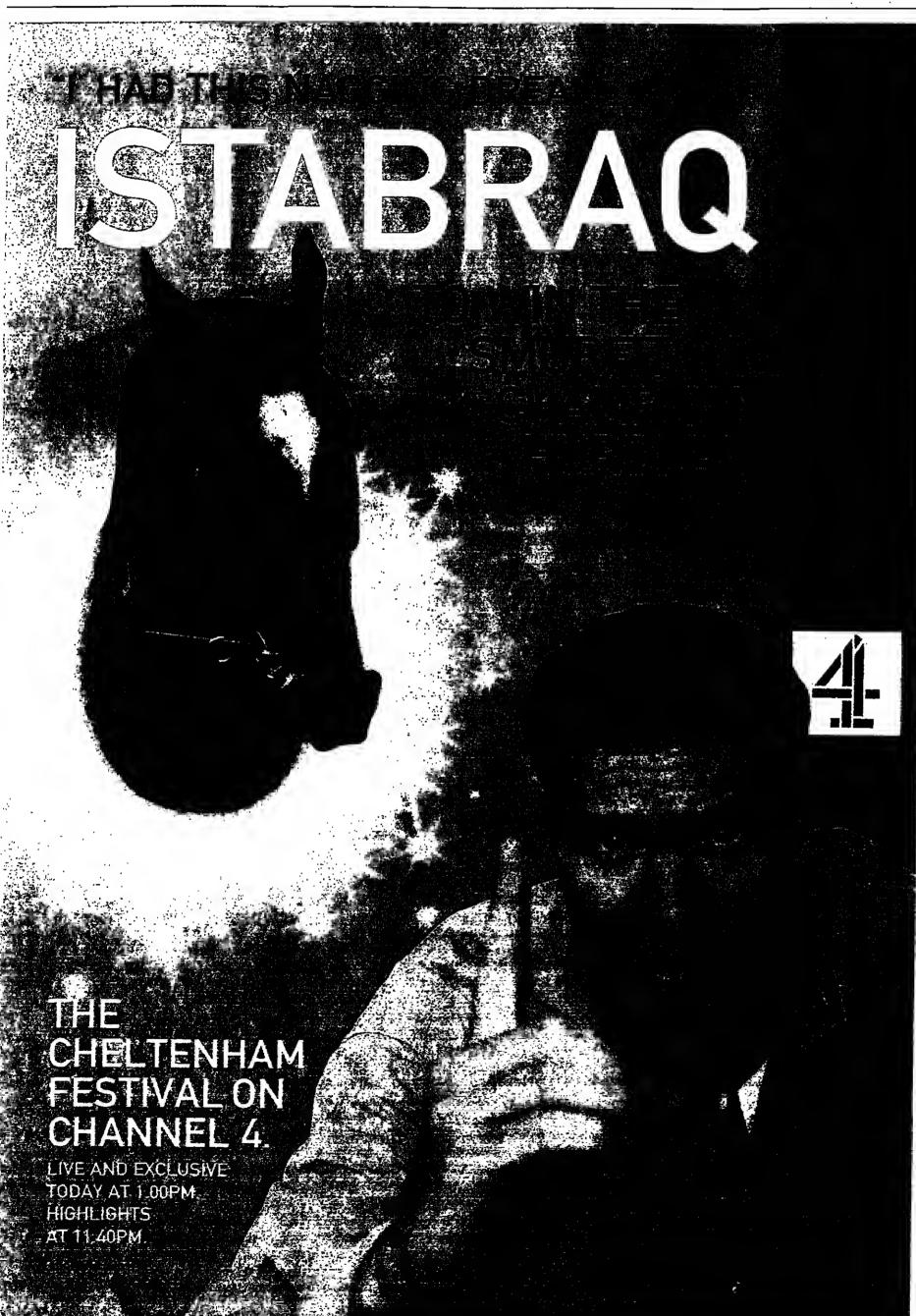
A cadre of senior officers from those ethnic backgrounds would provide the base for top officers in London and chief constables in other forces. The most senior officer from an ethnic minority back-ground in the country at the moment is Tarrique Ghaffur, an assistant chief constable in the Lancashire force. In London there are 23 offic-

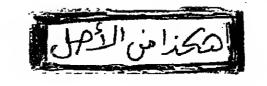
ers from ethnic minority backgrounds who are inspectors or above out of a fotal of 1,870 senior officers. They include four superintendents. There are no black or Asian officers in any higher ranks but one London officer has completed the na-tional course for the highest ranks.

The strategy, devised by a team of police and lay advisers, including personnel ex-perts from British Telecom and British Airways, contains a scheme to help promising officers who reach the rank of inspector and above to develop their careers. It was concluded that with more than 860 black and Asian officers already serving there was a reservoir of talent to be developed.

At the same time it was noted that 30 per cent of 18 to 24 year olds now go into higher education and that 35 per cent of that group are from ethnicminority backgrounds. The Yard is also setting up a scholarship scheme for black and Asian students.







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Trauma study Aberfan survi

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Archaeologists lift lid on the great unknown

THE tomb of one of the richest and greatest of Roman Londoners began to reveal its secrets yesterday after 1,800 years, but the indentity of the VIP remained unknown.

Archaeologists opened up a stone sarcophagus that was discovered in the City of London on Friday on a site destined to become an office complex. It contained a decorative lead coffin that was beyond their dreams.

Chris Thomas, an archaeologist from the Museum of London, said: "This is one of the most sensational finds I've come across." Before opening, the surface of the sarcophagus was scanned with a metaldetector. "It was going abso-lutely mad." said Simon Thurley, a director of the museum. 'It might be lined with lead, which would suggest the highest status burial. Perhaps a Roman governor, governor of London or even the whole province. Someone extremely grand and very rich. This is incredibly exciting."
Using scaffolds to lever up

the stone lid, several burly men slid it off the base to reveal a 6ft coffin not just lined with lead but made of lead. The team crouched down and peered. "Utierly extraordinary." said one. "This individual niust have been very, very wealthy and very important," said another. "It's in amazing condition. It's not been disturbed. No wonder the detec-

tor gave such a strong signal." The sarcophagus was discov-

9pm watershed, to avoid up-

The advertisements, known as the Full Stop Campaign,

are to be broadcast for the first

time lonight. Created by

Saatchi's, they are designed to

demonstrate that most cruelty

The England footballer

Alan Shearer, the Spice Girls

and other children's favour-

ites, such as Action Man and

Rupert Bear, are shown cover-

ing their eyes. In the back-

ground can be heard a mother

losing her temper with a baby, an angry father scream-

ing uncontrollably at a child.

a bewildered toddler crying

for help and a father sexually

abusing his daughter.
Jim Harding, the chief executive of the NSPCC, said that

to children occurs at home.

setting children.

Child abuse ad

uses cruelty

to hit home

By Alexandra Frean, social affairs correspondent

Tomb of Roman

VIP reveals his status, but no name, date or

job, reports Dalya Alberge

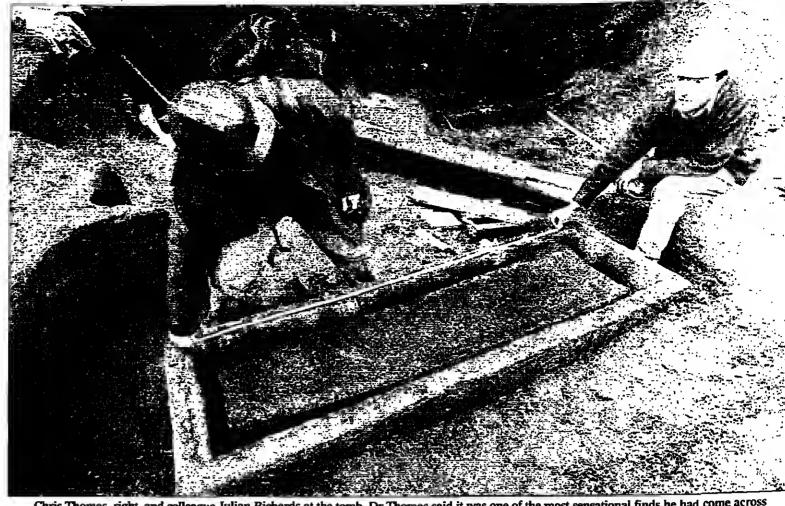
ered as archaeologists were ex-cavating 12ft beneath the sprawling clay and gravel site. which was a Roman cemetery outside the town walls, beside Bishopsgate. There are delicate rope-pattern lines on the edge and an inner panel on the lid. The top is covered in what looked like a thin layer of congealed mud: as it does not go beyond the inner panel, the archaeologists suggest it could be the remnants of flowers or branches offered to the dead.

The group tried to make out details beneath that layer, seeking out the slightest sign of an inscription. "A lottery win is a date, a name and a job title," said Dr Thurley, "But we'll settle for less." Inside, they expect that a skeleton could be surrounded by white powder, the remnants of a plaster and chalk mix that was used for disinfectant purposes, explained Bill White, a Museum of London osteo-archaeologist. The next stage is to lift and transport the entire sarcopha-

gus to a laboratory. Nearby graves are rectangu-

tons have been taken away for study. As they date from AD 150 to 250, the coffin may bear a similar date. Ordinary people were buried in timber coffins or shrouds. The last find of a stone sarcophagus of any kind in Britain was about 30 years ago in Bow.

Michael Bear, chief executive of the Spitalfields Development Group, on whose 12-acre site the sarcophagus was found, said that such discoveries added a certain romance to his world. Other excavations have unearthed plague pits and a medieval priory. Part of the site has been designated as Schedule Ancient Monument. Mr Bear is allowing the museum to create a temporary display in an old fruit and veg-etable stall in the Spitalfields Market from mid-April.



Chris Thomas, right, and colleague Julian Richards at the tomb. Dr Thomas said it was one of the most sensational finds he had come across

ENGLAND

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John Goatman, CLIFTON 0117 Scott & Dyer, CLIFTON 0117 RRISTOL

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happy and loving childhood."
Mike Taylor, the NSPCC's director of children's services, said the charity had invited the England captain to take part in the campaign so that it could reach out to fathers. who often did not have access lo support and information on bringing up children.

Shearer as he appears in

HARROWING television advertisements for the NSPCC are to be shown only after the designed to end widespread public complacency about child cruelty. Too many people refused to confront child was going on, he said, because it was too painful to deal with. There was also a danger that the recent highly publicised investigations into abuse in children's homes in past decades made people wrongly suppose that it had now been eradicated in

> general. The prevailing culture is one of denial about what is happeniog. Only when we recognise the reality of child abuse can we get on with bringing it to an end. It is an unacceptable stain on society and it is time we removed it." Mr Harding said. Shearer, who has two small

daughters, said he hoped the campaign would highlight the lerrible abuse that many children suffered: "In the world of football, we take a huge interest in the potential of children and young people. The NSPCC's advertising will make people think about the right that children have to a

Libby Purves, page 18 Letters, page 19 the NSPCC adverts

MIDDLESEX Elis & Thompson SHEPPERTON 0800 731 6584 N E LINCOLNSHIRE Mackay & Rolett, GRIMSBY 01472 354040 Robert, Grainsey of 1472 354040
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722661 McCaghrey & Lee, FAICENHAM
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LEADENHALL MARKET 0171 623 7300

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MCMSOROUGH 01709 582315 H
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SDCUP 0181 303 3935 Hammond,
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MONBOUTHSHERE Sight Centres,
CHEPSTOW 01291 622033 NEATH & PORT TALBOT Geolitey L Thomas, PORT TALBOT 01639 884125 NEWPORT Gyn Daves, CALDCOT 01291

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Trauma study on Aberfan survivors

BY SIMON DE BRUXELLES

SURVIVORS of the Aberfan coal rip disaster are in take part in a two-year study to investigate the long-term osychological effects that it has had on their lives.

In October 1960, 116 children and 28 adults died when tens of thousands of tons of coal waste slid down a hill nn to the Pantglas Junior School in South Wales. Many of the 145 children who escaped are now in their late thirties and early forties and are still struggling to come to terms with their survival.

A team from Cardiff University College of Medicine, funded by the Welsh Office, expects to find evidence of lingering traumas that have affected physical and mental health, education, job prospects and relarinnships.
One of the team leaders,

Jane Scourfield, 35, said that the investigators would compare the experiences of the survivors with adults who attended other schools in the area: "Not a lot is known about posttraumatic stress disorder. Our aim is to come up with findings that will help to treat survivors of future disasters."

Gaynor Minett, 41, who was pulled from the ruins of the school, but lost her brother and sister, said: "Many of the survivors are still suffering emotionally from the disaster. I'm sure it would help all of us to talk about it with people who understand post-traumai-

Test aims to stop Classics becoming ancient history

Bogus language is part of drive to

attract students with no Latin or Greek, writes **Hannah Betts**

A NEW generation of Oxford classicists is entering university without knowing any Latin or Greek. Instead, their apti-tude to learn the ancient languages is judged by their ability to make sense of an in-

vented language. Oxford's Classics Language Aptitude Test is an hour-long examination designed to assess sixth-formers' capacity to learn Latin and Greek from scratch. The test introduces an imaginary language from which phrases such as ni sqes leredaf ("do not stand on the books") have to be translated into English from a set of simple rules. The test is taken by

In this language there are two classes of nouns and two classes of verbs. In sentences, each member of each class of verbs and nouns behaves ecoording to the same pattern as every other member of its class, but the pattern may vary from class to class.

One class of nours and one class of verbs is characterised by the presence of a long vowel ($\bar{a} \in \bar{1} \circ \bar{u}$) in some or all of its forms; the other class of each is characterised by the absence of a long vowel.

Here are seven sentences in this lan a, tetrozor chup-chas fila-chan,

c. sesnāzor chūp chas filat.

1. A farmer steps on a dog.

 Some dentists take some cows
 A farmer sues some dentists. A farmer takes a bite of bread 6. He hurts some tee

7. Some dentists hurt a fair

the large numbers of would-be classicists whose schools no longer offer Latin or Greek, a problem particularly acute in the state sector.

Those who do well join an

have them enjoying Homer and Virgil in the original with-

This week, the first intake be-gins revising for its final examinations in the classic tongues. The university is confident pressive as those of students who took the more conventional academic route. But the course has attracted only a small number of applicants.

Ewen Bowie, admissions of-ficer in Classics, said. The faculty is very proud of the package, so we are slightly disappointed that applications are not moving forward faster." This year there were 20 ap-

plicants and 11 places were awarded, although twice as many students could have been accommodated. State schools were well represented in the final intake. Three out of four candidates from comprehensive schools were successful, as were all three grammar school applicants.

Dr Bowie believes several

factors may explain slow uptake of the course, ranging from sixth-formers finding Ox-ford's image intimidating to ignorance that the course exists.

tion results, there is a large pool of potential students. In recent years, some 6,500 pu-pils in England and Wales sat

and fewer than 300 took Greek. Most opted for classical civilisation courses, where the texts are studied largely in translation.

Peter Parsons, Regius Pro-fessor of Greek, argues that fewer students with knowledge of Latin and Greek means fewer teachers to spread the word that these languages are the best gateway to the ancient world.

We have a humane belief in what we're doing and that we've found the best way of doing it," he said. "It would be entirely wrong to take an ivory tower attitude and let the sub-ject dwindle under the de-mands of the modern world. The task that lies ahead now is to convince young people that we can help them to read themselves inside the skin of two re-markable civilisations."

LINKS

//www.classics.ex.ac.ak ics home page of the Faculty of



Dissident attacks Gorbachev visit

BY A CORRESPONDENT

VLADIMIR BUKOVSKY, the Russian dissident who studied at King's College, Cambridge, after being imprisoned in the Soviet Union for his political views, criticised his alma mater yesterday for playing host to the former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

Mr Bukovsky wrote to the college in protest, saying that Mr Gorbachev's leadership had presided over massacres of civilians and deliberately instigated ethnic conflicts in the Caucasus and Central Asia.

"It is a personal insult for me to see Gorbachev staying overnight in my college (like it would have been insulting for Jew to see a known Nazi invited as guest of honour)," Mr Bukovsky wrote. He said that the college's reputation would be "smeared" by "co-operation with mass murderers".

Mr Gorbachev addressed a college symposium vesterdav on the future of Russia, organised by the Gorbachev Foundation and the King's College scheduled to stay overnight at King's and to give a public lecture in Cambridge today.

No one from King's was

How children learn to hate the Germans

BY IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

pro-British as they grow older. according to psychologists.

Adam Rutland, of Aberdeen University, found that, until the age of ten, children do not bother about nationality. But as they become teenagers, they begin to be proud of being British and to dislike Germans.

For the research, 329 white, middle and lower-class children in southern England were divided into six age groups between six and 16. Each group was shown photographs of seven white men. and seven white women and asked to say whether they liked or disliked the faces. The test showed that none of the children liked or distiked some of the people in the photographs more than others.

Two weeks later, the children were shown the pictures again. This time they were told that the people in the photo-graphs were either British, German American, Russian or Australian.

Among the children aged six to ten there was no evi-dence of national prejudice against those described as Germans. From the age of 12 onwards, however, prejudices began to emerge and, among the 14-year-olds, the evaluation of

BRITISH children become in- the "German" photographs was clearly negative.

After the picture test each child was asked a number of questions to clarify their attitudes to being British and their opinions of other nationalities. Among the younger children, the most important thing about being British was that they could speak English and had friends and families living nearby. The younger children also said they liked the "beautiful countryside" or "nice weather". They did not

make any social comment. . By the time they were ten, however, chauvinism began to emerge. "We have the best army in the world thanks to Oliver Cromwell. We beat Germany in World War Two," one ten-year-old said.

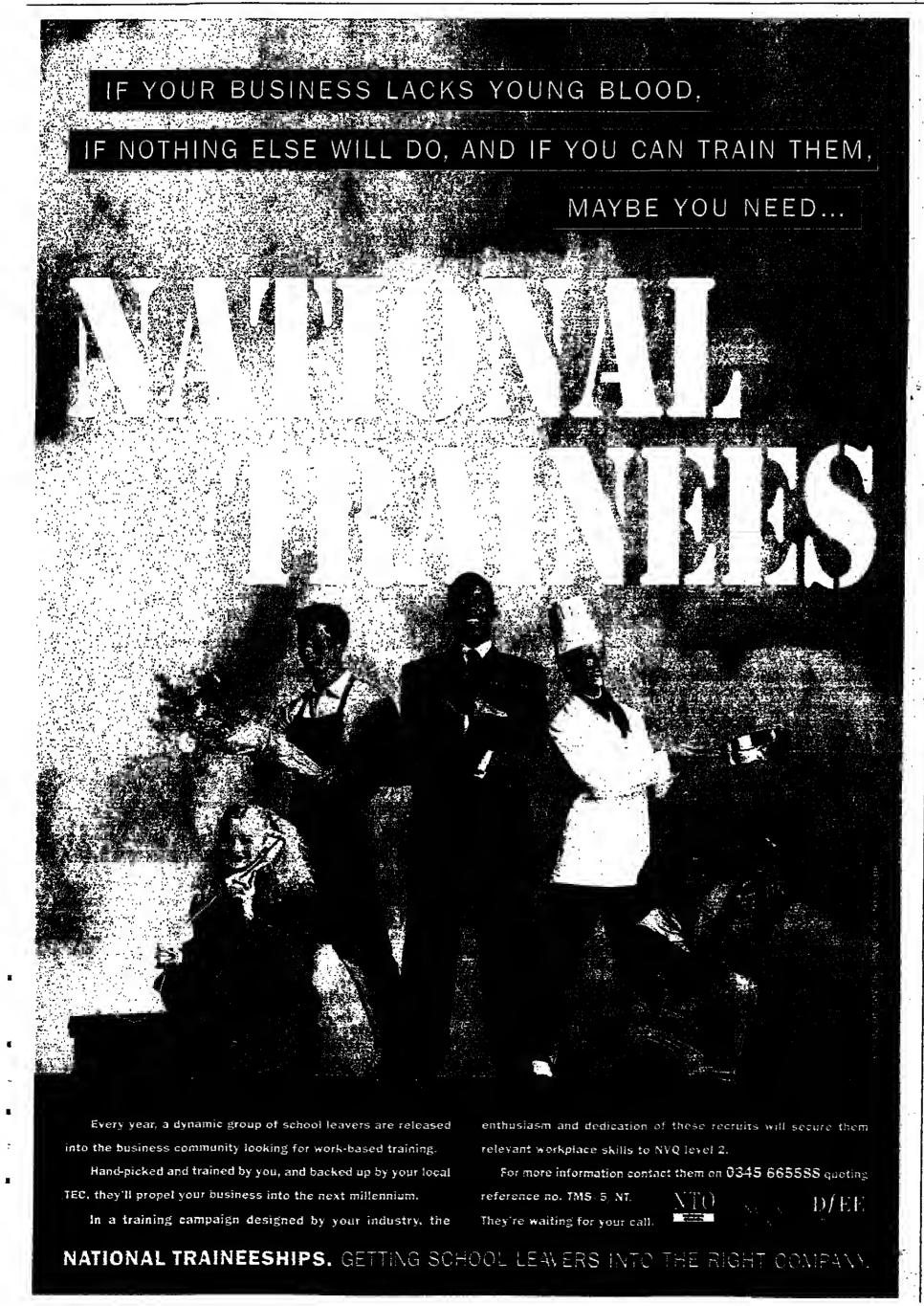
A 12-year-old was proud that we had the Empire and we have a monarchy and not many countries have them". A 14-year-old said: "We are more civilised and friendly com-pared to the French and Ger-

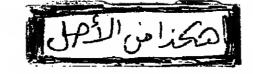
A 16-year-old thought "the food here is better compared to other places". Another in this age group said: "We are different from other countries. For example, we do not have capital punishment and we have

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Second inquiry to unravel maritime mystery

CH 16 199

By Frances GIBB LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

A HIGH COURT judge will open a second inquiry today into the loss of the MV Derbyshire with 44 lives. The sinking of the four-year-old ship in 1980 is one of the mysteries of maritime history, and has recommended. maritime history, and has confounded experts.

The inquiry, announced last year by John Prescott, the Dep-uty Prime Minister, is unprece-dented. Mr Justice Colman, a commercial court judge, will chair what amounts to a rehearing of the first inquiry with the aim of establishing why the ship went down in the

The judge, who has experience of shipping disputes, will study more than 135,000 photographs and 200 hours of video film from the £2 million investigation of the water in 1907. tigation of the wreck in 1997.
In 1981 Lord Trefgarne, Minister for Trade at the time, de-

cided that a formal investiga-tion into the sinking was im-practicable because of the lack of "any material evidence ... no ship, no survivors, nor any wreckage". But an inquiry was ordered after the Kowloon. Bridge, one of the Derbyshire's five sister ships, went down in 1986. Four years earlier another sister ship, the Tyne Bridge, suffered a crack in the deck in bad weather and had to be towed to safety.

The first inquiry, conducted by Gerald Darling, QC, report-ed in 1989 that the ship was probably overwhelmed by the forces of nature in Typhoon Orchid" off Okinawa, Relatives of the dead, trades unions and shipping experts have maintained however, that the Derbyshire and other bulk carriers like it had design faults.

in 1995 the Government asked Lord Donaldson of Lymington, former Master of the Rolls, to report on the feasibility of a further inquiry. He con-cluded that the £2 million survey of the wreck site was justified in view of the potential

benefits to ship safety.
The survey report couchided barely one metre square, was

ARE REPORTED TO THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPERTY O



The Prince on Sea Lion Island, home to large colonies of penguins, elephant seals, sea lions, and just two humans — a former Yorkshireman and his wife who run a tourist lodge

At peace among the penguins

WHEN one has upset the Argeninians and been lauded to the skies by the Falkland Islanders, it provides a moment of relief to be able to talk to the penguins. One is assured of a

large and attentive andience.
The Prince of Wales, on his official visit to the South Atlanofficial visit to the South Atlantic, briefly escaped the politics of sovereignty during a tour of Sea Lion Island, the most southerly inhabited of the Falklands, with a resident population of 40,000 penguins, 3,500 sea lions, 50 bull elephant seals, a Yorkshireman and his wife.

By chance, the only other tourist at the Falklands' premier wildlife location during. the visit was Christopher Tai-bot-Ponsonby, a nephew of the late naturalist Sir Peter Scott. "This is absolutely marvel-lous," Mr Talbot-Ponsonby en-thused. "Twe always had a great interest in the Falklands, and it's uplifting to be here." The Prince was equally in-

move on dry land at anything faster than a waddle, insists on walking as far as possible

Sea Lion Island is home to an even greater number of magellanic penguins, known to the locals as jackasses, from their habit of braying like donkeys at dusk. It is an equally odd creature, being one of the very few penguins to tunnel a burrow for a nest. Not for them all that standing about on the ice balancing an egg on their feet.

inland to find a nesting site.

On a cement-grey beach, the Prince looked at a large number of huge motionless brown boulders. As he warched, one boulder raised a flipper and dusted uself with sand to keep cool. The Prince was advised to keep his distance not only have southern bull elephant seals been known to bite sizeable chunks trigued. With shepherd's out of unwary tourists' bot-

A Falklands elephant seal: the breath is said to be deadly

to get closer than is good for them. A team of Italian researchers has been on Sea Lion Island trying to weigh the seals, which can exceed four tonnes. Their sophisticated scientific method is to lure the

one seal let out a loud noise, a cross between a roar and a bad bout of flatulence. "Why don't you pat him, sir," a pho-tographer called. "Oh yes, I suppose you'd like that, thank you very much," the Prince

The two humans on Sea Lion Island are David and Patricia Gray, who emigrated to the Falklands from North

Alan Hamilton on the Prince's brief escape from Falklands politics pure organic produce.

The Prince, whose programme had earlier been dis-Yorkshire 25 years ago, and moved to the island after a spell of farming at Goose Green, which included incar-

> lage hall during the Argentine occupation. The island, once home to 1,600 sheep, is now a conservation area, and the Grays have built a small tourist lodge from which visitors can see 47 species of nesting birds, and

ceration for 29 days in the vil-

killer whales cruising off-Tourism is still in its infancy in the Falklands, with only about 300 staying visitors a year, plus another 20,000 who

come ashore on day excursions from cruise liners. Yesterday the Prince toured research projects at the Falk-lands Department of Agriculture, where experts from Brit-ain and Australia are trying to improve the islands' tradition-

The islanders, whose staple diet was once elderly mutton. hope eventually to establish a

niche in world markets for

rupted by bad weather, also visited the British War Cemetery at San Carlos, where 15 servicemen are buried, and the memorial to the Welsh Guards, of which he is Colonel-in-Chief, at Fitzroy, near the scene of the disastrous bombing of two landing craft at the height of the 1982

His visit to the Falklands has proved outstandingly popular with the 2,200 islanders. the great majority of whom were able to see him at Stanley, Goose Green or Fox Bay in West Falkland, His surprisingly direct reference to the sovereignty question dur-ing a speech in Buenos Aires served to double his welcome in the islands, and to reassure the population of Britain's continuing commitment towards

Lewis Clifton, a member of ally poor pasture to increase said yesterday: "We have left Prince Charles with the clear

NEWS IN BRIEF

Life for killer on the bus

Martin Gibbs, 46. from Kennington, South London, was jailed for life at the Old Bailey for stabbing to death a man who had politely remonstrat-ed with him for throwing a bottle from a bus near Vaux-

hall Bridge. Herbie Williams, 56, a retired London Transport mechanic, who was on his way home from prayers at Westminster Cathedral, had left the bus after Gibbs became belligerent, but Gibbs followed him and plunged a 12-inch knife into his chest. Gibbs had 20 previous convictions.

Lawrence attack

A care worker was given 200 hours' community service at Southwark for kneeing a constable in the face at the Stephen Lawrence inquiry. Rasaki Yesufu-Muhammad, 29, from Northolt, is a member of the Nation of Islam.

Robbery appeal

Bill "Mad Dog" Hickson, 54, and John "Chainsaw Woody" Woodruff, 60, were given leave to appeal against their convictions in 1997 for robbing an East London post office. They claim that police planted a gun during their arrest.

Murder hunt

Detectives are hunting a mug ger who fatally injured an elderly man during an attack on the doorstep of his home. John Fiddian, 91, died in hospital on Saturday, two days after the attack in Handsworth Wood, Birmingham.

TV writer dies

The television comedy writer Sid Green, who worked for Morecambe and Wise and many others, has died aged 71. He and his partner, the late Dick Hills, had their own se-ries. That Show and Those Two Fellers, in the 1960s.

Off her trolley

Firemen used bolt cutters to free Olivia Groves, aged 20 months, when she became supermarket trolley while shopping with her parents at a Tesco store in Eastbourne.

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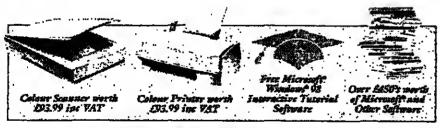
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WILLIAM HAGUE has done something sensible. He has stopped digging himself further into a hole on Europe. His real challenge as leader has been less policy than management — whether his party becomes an exclusive sect or whether dissent is tolerated.

If Mr Hague learned anything oo his recent American trip, it should have been the dangers of defining a party by a single issue. A major reason why the Republicans lost the last two presidential elections was that they appeared intolerant on moral issues as the voice of the Religious Right. Abortion has been the litmus test for many Republican activists, particularly those who vote in primary elections. But such absolutism has repelled

many women voters.
However, even in the pre-liminary skirmishing for the 2000 campaign, some possi-ble Republican runners have signalled a more tolerant attinide. George W. Bush Jr., the

A SMALL carton of UHT milk

- possibly sponsored - took centre stage in the race to be-

come London's mayor yester-day as Lord Archer of Weston-

super-Mare vowed to give back what Margaret Thatcher

give a daily free carton of milk :

to the capital's 500,000 prima-

ry schoolchildren. However,

rather than simply restoring

what Mrs Thatcher removed

as Education Secretary in the early 1970s, Lord Archer went

one better, offering a healthy breakfast bar and fruit juice

In what was immediately

dubbed a "muesli offensive",

Lord Archer said the case for

free school milk was over-

whelming. Research showed

that poor nutrition affected schoolwork, he said, and that

children who arrived without

having had a proper breakfast tended to be disruptive.

Lord Archer put the annual cost at £30 million, although

he has started talks with supermarkets and cereal producers in the hope of striking a spon-

It was part of an overtly pop-ulist platform, which included

the promise to give his £100,000 mayoral salary to

charities for the homeless. His

A hole in the road tax. Gas.

electricity and other udlides would be charged to dig up

Cleaner cars. Heavy fines levied by the boroughs on cars

with exhaust fumes which

break the legal limit, but no

A commissioner for dirt to clean up the capital and over-

see a mayor-led anti-litter carn-

paign. Courts would be en-

couraged to sentence offenders

to serve on gangs of litter re-movers and graffiti busters.

NEWS IN BRIEF

£80m to get

patients

off trolleys

An extra £80 million is to be

spent on upgrading hospital

easualty departments to en-

sure that patients are no long-

er left lying on trolleys in corri-dors. Frank Dobsoo told MPs. The Health Secretary

said that the money, from the

Treasury's Capital Modernisa-tion Fund, would ensure that

all but five of the 202 accident

and emergency departments

had a separate admissions

ward. Patients would stay in

admissions ward beds until a place was allocated in a spe-

Biblical politics

The Conservatives' "Listening

to Britain's churches" exercise

has shown that churchgoers

want the Tories to become a party of biblical values and

virtues rather than one ob-

sessed with economic issues. Pleas for a return to tradition-

al values were among the early results of the consultation. Fuel tax 'failure'

John Prescott was accused of

failing to secure any increases

in transport spending despite

a £2 billion rise in motoring taxes to £33 billion a year. Gillian Shephard, the Shadow Transport Secretary, said the Budget fuel tax rises had hit many vulnerable people who depended on their cars.

sorship deal.

London's roads.

congestion charges.

for non milk-drinkers.

had once taken away. Lord Archer said he would

Why the Tories agreed to differ on Europe

Texas Governor, has said that, while he is against abortion rights, he does not favour a constitutional ban because there is no consensus on it. George Pataki, the New York Governor and possible vicepresidential nominee, has similarly argued that "a plank that says we all have to beheve or act one way or the other is inappropriate".

The Tories are in a parallel predicament. At times, the leadership has seemed to want to make Europe a defin-ing and excluding issue. There have even been mutterings by some "pygmies and zealots", in Sir Malcohn Rifkind's phrase, about pushing

Commuter services: a new

express bus on 17 key routes

would have a fixed fare of £1. Buses to the City and the West End would run every three minutes. Routes would start

well outside London with park

and ride stations at each one.

A £32 million a year hand-

out to London boroughs to

spur more voluntary work by

charities and others; at least

half the money earmarked to

Mayor's question time. Lord Archer would answer

questions twice a month, alter-

nating between radio phone-

Ken Livingstone, one of the

two other declared candidates,

accused Lord Archer of bor-

rowing his policies. The former leader of the GLC and

Labour MP for Brent East cit-ed the bus links and his Tory

rival's emphasis on social exdusion, with particular help

for the elderly and homeless.

Leading article, page 19

ins and public meetings.

help the elderly.

Archer sets

out to milk

popular vote

for mayor



months ago. That would risk limiting the party's appeal. This is not about modifying

the party's policy. Ever since Mr Hague became leader, there has never been any doubt that the Tories would oppose joining the single cur-rency at the oext election. That is the overwhelming view of Tory members, MPs and the Shadow Cabinet. This is why talk of Kenneth Clarke

ently implausible in current circumstances, even though he is by far the best qualified

The Tories have to live with their current policy until ei-ther they win the oext election. and entry is ruled out for a decade or more, or they lose, and a re-elected Blair Government holds, and wins, a referendum on entry. In this case, the Tories will have to shift in a pro-European direction. But the Tories cannot win an election if they suffer the hugely damaging split involved in

driving out pro-Europeans... Of course, some committed pros. notably John Stevens and Brendan Donnelly, have

left to set up their Pro-Europe-an party. But the big names. Michael Heseltine, Kenneth Clarke, David Curry and Ian Taylor, have said they have no intention of leaving the Tory party or of supporting the Stevens/Donnelly group. Moreover, Mr Clarke and Mr Heseltine have withheld their public backing from the new cross-party Britain in Europe campaign until after the Euro-

That is the basis for an agreement to differ, as Mr Hague has recognised. He has referred to to "a broad church" with people "not hav-ing to agree to 100 per cent of the policies" and not wanting to see MPs driven out of the party. The key requirement is not supporting any group putting up candidates against the Tories and, a greyer area, not rocking the boat during election periods. But such a leadership does not harden its



Hague: criticised cynical attitude to press freedom.

Hague in attack on 'Stalinist' Blair

BY PHILIP WEBSTER

WILLIAM HAGUE yester ter an "old-style Stalinist" as he attacked Downing Street's "parronising, hypo-critical and cynical attitude" to press freedom.

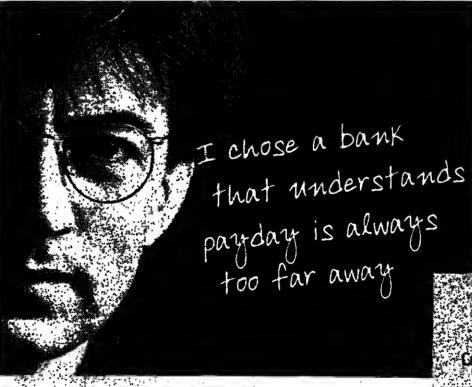
to press freedom.

The Tory leader told the London Press Club that Tony Blair was "ruthlessly intolerant" of debate, scrutiny or argument. "He seems to expect uncritical acceptance of everything he does. no matter how misguided or wrong-headed his actions."

Mr Hague said that Mr Blair and Alastair Campbell, his press secretary, had in recent weeks "vowed to bypass national political correspondents and take their message direct to the apparently less demanding audience on regional newspapers, women's magazines and the ethnic mi-

Mr Hague said there was a more sinister side. "Blair and Campbell know that continuing to brief the parliamentary lobby. But they also hope that by threatening to exile its more independentminded members, they might be able to bully the rest of the pack into toeing the line."

Michael Gove, page 18



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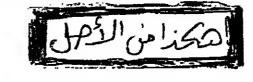


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Zhu Rongji yesterday: he dismissed US charges that China had stolen nuclear secrets as an Arabian Nights' tale

China warns West to shun dissidents

CHINA, displaying an un-yielding stance on human rights, warned Western gov-ernments not to support Chi-nese dissidents living in exile.

The warning yesterday by Zhu Rongil, the Prime Minister, comes as the tenth anniversary of the killing of pro-democracy supporters in Tiananmen Square draws near and as he prepares to embark on a controversial visit to the United States next month. There is also concern as the US and the European Union consider whether to table a resolution critical of Beijing's record at the United Nations Human Rights Commission in Geneva. later this month.

Speaking at the end of the annual session of the National People's Congress, China's nominal parliament, Mr Zhu said: "Don't support these elements of the democracy movement. After you let those people return to China, there will be no legal system and no think it will be."

The Prime Minister was ap-

Diplomats dismayed after Beijing brands political exiles a threat to democracy, James Pringle reports

parently referring to China's best-known dissidents, Wei Jingsheng and Wang Dan. The two were forced into exile in America after serving prison terms in Beijing.
At the press conference, Mr

Zhu also recalled his recent meeting with Madeleine Al-bright, the US Secretary of State, during which he described his own part in China's history as a struggle for human rights. "I told her, I am ten years older than you. When I took part in the movement for democracy, freedom and human rights against the [Nationalist] Kuomintang, you were still in junior high school." Diplomats said his remarks would disappoint those who felt that "constructive engagement" would influence China on human rights. Mr Zhu, 70, spoke on a

range of subjects during this once a year opportunity for reporters to quiz Chinese leaders. He was dismissive of US charges that China had stolen nuclear secrets from the Los Alamos laboratories in New Mexico. "The so-called problem of China stealing military secrets from the United States is like a tale from the Arabian Nights," he said.

The Prime Minister said Sino-US relations had been damaged by an internal strug-gle in America but he hoped for a "warm handshake" from President Clinton to reflect "quite good relations". He also derided reports that China had positioned 600 missiles aimed at Taiwan and warned Washington against proceeding with a Theatre Missile Defence (TMD) plan for Asia.
"We are against TMD," Mr

Zhu said. "We are especially firm in our opposition to including Taiwan under TMD. Our missiles are absolutely not aimed at our brothers and sisters in Taiwan, and we would not easily use these missiles," he said.

Mr Zhu said Washington had overestimated the nuclear threat posed by North Korea, but seemed to dismiss US sug-gestions that China could press Pyongyang to abandon its nuclear programme. "How can we interfere [in] an independent country?" he asked.

The parliament closed after

passing constitutional amend-ments elevating the role of the private sector, the rule of law and enshrining Deng Xiaoping Thought on China's "market socialism" alongside that of Marx, Lenin and Mao.

Under the reforms, the private sector will become an "important component", instead of just a "complement", to the socialist economy, a recognition of the growing ability of entrepreneurship to create jobs and economic prosperity.

Chinese 'are still stealing military secrets from US'

FROM IAN BROOTE IN WASHINGTON

THE Washington clash over the leaking of nuclear weapons secrets to China grew more heated yesterday, with a leading protagonist claiming that the problem was still go-

Smelling blood, the Republicans are stepping up their attacks on the Clinton Administration, pointedly asking if there is a link between the President's slow reaction to the suspected espionage and the reported but never proved Chinese connection to illegal contributions to his re-election campaign. The White

House rejects the charge. "Absolutely no truth to it it's an outrageous statement." declared Sandy Berger, Mr Clinton's National Security Adviser. Nonetheless, the accusations of Chinese spying. US response, are shaping up into a row that could run well into the presidential election season next year. Indeed, several second-tier Republican candidates are already making insistent demands for Mr

Berger's head. At issue is how China developed nuclear warheads, small enough to put several on one missile, that bear a striking resemblance to the W88s carried on American Trident sub-

Liz Taylor

'beaten by

her father'

New York: Elizabeth Taylor has revealed that her father was a drunk who beat her as a child (James Bone writes). When I was a little girl, my

father was abusive when he

drank, and seemed to like to bat me around a bit," she said

in a taped television interview

to be broadcast before the Os-

in 1932 but moved to the United States with her American

parents, Francis and Sara, be-

fore the Second World War. She got her first film part at

the age of nine in There's One

Born Every Minute. Her performance in National Velvet,

Taylor was born in London

cars on Sunday.

marines. The secrets may have been stolen during the 1980s from the Los Alamos ouclear research laboratory in New Mexico. A Taiwan-born computer scientist there has

The accusation that the leaks are continuing has been made by Christopher Cox, Republican chairman of the congressional Select Intelligence Committee which investigated the leaks. He cited inadequate counter-intelligence at Los Alamos and other research laboratories. "Throughout the Government, we do not do a good job of protecting our military secrets from collection, he said.

One specific problem that the Clinton Administration was only just beginning to address was the unfettered flow ages from the laboratories, Mr Cox claimed. If true, e-mailing blueprints of warheads could be a far simpler way of spying than the Cold War chores of copying documents and dropping them off behind a tree for the KGB.

Bill Richardson, the US Energy Secretary in charge of cleaning up the Los Alamos mess, claims that the Administration acted "swiftly and responsibly" over the leaks.

Taylor in National Velvet:

I don't blame him"

released when she was 12

made her a star. She told ABC

television's Barbara Walters

that she had grown to understand and forgive her father, an art-dealer. "I don't blame

Taylor's past may explain her troubled life since she left

home to marry Nicky Hilton,

an alcoholic who battered her

him . . . he was drunk."

on their honeymoon.

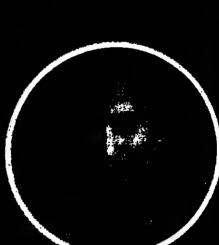




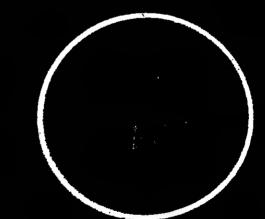




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WORLD IN BRIEF

British ski firms

in French court

Paris: Two British tour operators and the owner of an alpine ski school are being prosecuted in an Albertville court in a legal row over British ski instructors' qualifications (Susan

Jean-Yves Lapeyrere, who runs Ski Cocktail in Albertville, was charged with inciting eight British instructors to break

French law by refusing to make them take extra tests. If found guilty, he could be jailed for up to a year and fined

Fri00,000 (£10,000). In a separate case, Leonard Silver, 67, of Maidstone, Kent, and Brian Sill, 49, of Kendal, Cumbria.

who own Silverski, are accused of letting three British "chalet

boys" supervise clients without ski instructors' certificates.

Zimbabwe mercy plea

Harare: Richard Gladwell McGown, 61, the Scottish anaes-

thetist, made a last-minute appeal to President Mugabe of

Zimbabwe to spare him from serving a six-month prison sentence for negligently causing the deaths of two black children (Michael Hartnack writes). McGown, who should have strrendered to prison authorities on Saturday, hired an African

lawyer to pelition Mr Mugabe to invoke his powers of clemen-

Johannesburg: More than 14,000 children were reported to have been raped in South Africa in 1998, Police Commis-sioner Neels Steenkamp told a conference on crimes against

children, held in South Africa's Northern Province. He said the figure had almost doubled since 1994, when 7,559 cases

were reported, lending credence to claims that South Africa was the "rape capital of the world". (AFP)

Paris: Passengers on Air France flights to Asia are being

shown an in-flight video warning them of the penalties for sex-nally abusing children while on holiday (Susan Bell writes). The film, in French and English, was made in association

with the Bangkok-based pressure group, End Child Prostitu-

Sex tourists warned

cy and convert the jail term to community service.

Child rapes double

Albanians take peace road

Accord by Kosovo rebels puts ball in court of Yugoslavia's President Milosevic, Tom Walker reports

THE ethnic Albanian delega-

tion to the resumed Kosovo peace talks yesterday handed Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, and Hubert Védrine, his French counterpart, a letter saying they would sign the Contact Group's autonomy plan for the province.

After a week of procrastination that threatened to cost the Albanian cause much international goodwill the delegation, through its most intransi-gent member, Hashim Thaci, acknowledged that Kosovo was at a "turning point". Western diplomats said the letter. signed by Mr Thaci, signalled a sea change in the negotations, with the pressure now very much on Belgrade.

It was not clear last night how long the Albanians will stay in Paris. With face-to-face talks with the Serbs, who have issued a warrant for Mr Thaci's arrest, again ruled out as almost meaningless, there is little for the Albanians to do in the Centre Kleber, the peace conference's new home near the Arc de Triomphe.

One Western source admitited talks may peter out before the end of the week, when Mr Cook and M Védrine are likely to fly to Belgrade for yet another confrontation with Kosovo's ultimate arbiter, President Mi-losevic of Yugoslavia.

Yesterday there was no sign of a Serb climbdown on the peace plan's sticking-point—a 28,000-strong, Nato-led force to oversee and help to implement the political part of the deal, which has been broadly _accepted by Belgrade. Nevertheless, Mr Milosevic continues to call the international community's bluff, aware that the six-nation Contact Group the administration of your is deeply divided over the use countries, was great," it said.

of Nato airstrikes, currently the only bargaining-chip left to force through the deal.

Analysts in Belgrade gave a warning that Mr Milosevic might even sanction a fresh offensive in Kosovo as a prelude to any Nato involvement. The Yugoslav Army extended conscripts' military service by 30 days yesterday because of "threats of military interven-tion", the official Tanjug news agency said. The country continues to remain on a war-footing — an atmosphere that Mr Milosevic will seek to exploit. Albanian sources close to

Mr Thaci and the delegation gave a warning that the Kosovo Liberation Army's promises might be short-lived. "We know there will be no airstrikes if the Serbs do not sign, and in that case, if the Serbs keep on shelling, there will be trouble," Pleurat Sejdiu, the KLA's London representative, said. The KLA will have to

Despite the still gloomy pros-pects for peace, diplomats in-sisted the Albanian letter had injected new life into the talks and were happy to label it as a breakthrough. In the letter, Mr Thaci said that, after consultations with the people of Kosovo, "this delegation and I personally say 'yes' to this agreement. We would be honoured to sign the agreement in your presence at a time and

place of your choosing."
Mr Thaci, 29, who has eclipsed Ibrahim Rugova, the former moderate figurehead of the ethnic Albanians, also praised Mr Cook and M Vedrine, the co-chairmen of the talks. "Your contribution. as well as the contribution of



Ibrahim Rugova, moderate leader of the ethnic Albanians, gives the victory sign outside the conference centre.

Cook to read riot act to Milosevic

By MICHAEL EVANS DEFENCE EDITOR

ROBIN COOK, the Foreign Secretary, will go to Belgrade later this week to issue one final warning to President Milosevic, if the Yugoslav leader fails to match the ethnic Albanian promise to sign a peace semement for Kosovo.

Mr Cook, who co-chaired the reopening of the peace talks, said that the Ser-bian side had "one less alibi for signing

up to this package". Although there was no sign of the Serb delegation weakening in its opposition to a Nato-led peace implementation force in Kosovo, British offi-cials said that the Serbs would be given another 48 to 72 hours to agree to a deal. "If, after that, they are still being obstructive, it is likely that Robin Cook and Hubert Védrine Ithe French Foreign Minister will go to Belgrade to make it absolutely clear to Mr Milosevic what he is

diplomatic pressure would lead to a sequence of events, starting with the with-drawal of embassy staff from Belgrade, the evacuation of the Kosovo verification mission and airstrikes.

President Clinton, adding to the pressure on the Serbs yesterday, said in Washington: "The most important thing is that Milosevic and the Serbs most sign. If he shows intransigence and aggression, we

tion and Trafficking, and cautions passengers that they can be prosecuted in their own country for child sex abuse. War crimes denied

Zagreb: The last known Second World War concentration camp commander, Dinko Sakic, right, pleaded not guilty at the start of his trial here to charges of war crimes. Mr Sakic, 77, the first member of the fascist Ustashe regime to be tried for war crimes since Croatia became independent from Yugostavia in 1991, denied responsibility for the deaths of at least 2,000 people. (Renters)



UN helicopter lost

New York: A United Nations helicopter with 13 people on board has disappeared in Haiti, a UN spokesman said. The MIS, carrying six Argentine and one US passenger, left Portau-Prince on Sunday night, but radio contact was lost min-utes later. A search for the helicopter, crewed by six Russians, has so fair found no trace. (AFP)

Russia and Serbs united in a Slavic brotherhood

FROM ANNA BLUNDY IN MOSCOW

THE ultra-nationalist leader of Russia's Liberal Democratic Party, Vladimir Zhirinovsky, yesterday echoed the sentiments of the majority of Russians in voicing his sup-port for his Serb brothers whatever their actions... He said: "Considering the

longstanding brotherhood be-tween Russia and Serbia as Slav peoples, we have always supported each other, and the Liberal Democratic Party gives Serbia a carte blanche to do anything, from uniting with Russia to allying itself to

While Russia would appear to be at one with the other five Contact Group countries in try-

ing to persuade Yugoslavia to agree to Western plans for a settlement with the Kosovo Albanians, the Russian people remain firmly behind their historic allies. Russia's links with fellow Orthodox Slav Serbia go back for centuries, and throughout the recent slaughter in Croatia and Bosnia, Russia has remained an apologist

seen in Russia as an attempt by the legitimate Serbian authorities to deal with terror-Ist Albanian insurgents. Russian press reports portray civilian casualties in the conflict as unfortunate victims caught in crossfire rather than as the victims of brutal massacre.

When Nato first threatened military action against the

Serbs, the headline in the Russian paper Komsomolskaya Pravda read: "Nato takes Kosovo under its wings - or the wings of its bombers."

The fear is that, once influence over some Slavs has been ceded to the West, it will not be long before Russia too is forced to bow to what is perceived as American-led aggression. It is a deep-seated sense

unites Serbia and Russia against Muslims in the area. Galina Sorokina, a former chairwoman of the Central Committee of Public Services and Local Industry of the USSR, sums up the Russian view: "If we start supporting the Albanians in their bid for autonomy, we will have to sup-port the Chechens in theirs."

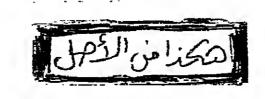


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Charles Bremner reports from Brussels on the dynamic but chaotic career of a woman dubbed 'Edith-la-Flamboyante'

FRENCH honour may be at stake in the scandal surrounding Edith Cresson, the European Commissioner at the heart of the Brussels sleaze affair, but her expected downfall holds no great surprise for the French establishment.

Long known as "Edith-la-Flamboyante", the former Prime Minister, now aged 65, was viewed in Paris as a dynamic but unpredicta-ble outsider whose disdain for the rules could drive her to disaster.

In 1994, when President Mitterrand insisted on sending his longtime protégée to Brussels, Edouard Balladur, who was then Prime Minister.

tried to block what he 6 Disdain for considered to be a high-risk appointrules could

The chaotic tenmonth premiership of drive her to the woman whom Mitterrand used to refer to as "my little soldisaster ⁹ dier" was proof enough of her shaky leadership skills, the

French Prime Minister argued. Mme Cresson's habit of skirting convention has helped to bring about her likely political disgrace as the main target of the independent inquiry into Commissioners' conduct. It has also handed the Socialist politician fuel for her belief that for the second time she is serving as a scapegoat for the sins of a wider culture.

As the report last night by five independent experts, including two former EU auditors, made clear, the European Commission suffers from broad failures of manage-

ment, most kindly defined as a lack of rigour that hails from an easier age of administration. Cronyism, political patronage and tolerance of dubious practices have long been a feature in a body that was launched in the 1950s as a supranational elite based on the senior ranks of the French civil service.

The Commission crisis started by the European Parliament in January is now forcing a purge that was inevitable, given the administration's failure to enforce modern management methods.

Jacques Santer, the President, is carrying the blame for weak leadership, many inside the Commission point the finger of blame at Jacques Delors, his French Socialist predecessor, who was famous for neglecting the housekeeping side of his leadership while pur-

suing his grand

rope from 1985 to 1995. Mme Cresson has borne the brunt of anger over nenotism because of disclosures of her appointment of a dentist friend and five other associates to well-paid posts at the Commission. Lesser complaints were aired against Manuel Marin, the Spanish Commissioner for overseas aid. and João Pinheiro, the Portuguese

Africa and the Pacific countries. The report criticised Señor Marin for lax control over the running of an aid scheme for Mediterranean nations, for irregularities in

Commissioner for relations with



Edith Cresson: French administrative establishment viewed her as an unpredictable outsider

hiring officials and for doing too little too late to stop fraud in the European Union's humanitarian aid budget which was handled through a Luxembourg contractor

in the early 1990s: in defending themselves, Mr Santer and his colleagues are blaming a lack of per-sonnel. With 17,000 employees, the staff of a large city's administra-

tion, the Commission is expected to administer the EU's budget of £60 billion a year while enforcing EU law and launching new legislation. The biggest fraud, the Com-

mission argues, is committed in spending programmes run by the member states, notably in the area of farm subsidies and customs duty. The Commission's workload has led to much contracting to outside agencies, the main area of frauds identified by auditors, the Parhament and whistle-blowers.

Belgian police are investigating two alleged swindles involving an agency contracted to Mme Cresson's education division, but these are eclipsed by far bigger affairs, in-volving tens of millions of pounds, in other directorates, notably the humanitarian aid programmes.

Other Commission heads may roll, but Mme Cresson sealed her fate with her refusal to accept blame and her defiant approach to her parliamentary inquisitors. In the eyes of MEPs, including some of her French Social-

ist colleagues, her ap-pearances before the To win a Parliament been a tour de force of arrogance. With her back to the wall over her favours to contract, you have to belly friends, she asked a panel of questioning MEPs: "Are we sup posed to work only with people we do not

know?" That contrasted with the contrite air adopted by Senor Marin, who mollified MEPs by acknowledging failures.

dance ?

Mme Cresson sees herself as a victim of political machinations orchestrated from Germany with the aim of undermining French prestige at a time when Germany is trying to assert its power in Europe. That view is shared by Spanish and other Mediterranean socialists who see a political hand behind the whole affair.

Over dinner in her Brussels flat during the past month, she has held forth to visitors on her feelings

of injustice that go back to Jon2 when she was pilloried by Socialis! colleagues and the media and summarily dismissed by Mitterrand as the shortest-serving French Prime Minister of modern times. She was ditched then, she believes, because she was forced to carry the can for the troubles of the Mitterrand Admistration. This time, she says. she is guilty of no behaviour that is not standard in the French adminis-

trative culture. However, even within the colour-ful annals of the Mitterrand court. Mme Cresson stood out as a loose

Unlike most people appointed by Mitterrand, who came from the technocratic elite, Mme Cresson had caught Mitterrand's eye whik working as a lowly member of his campaign staff. The former Edith

Campion had entered politics at the late age of 31 after a bourgeois youth that had included education at the hands of an English governess and a degree in commercial

Pugnacious and dynamic, she established herself as a political "tough guy" while also openly

trading on her unquestionable feminine charm. No unattractive wonan could succeed in politics, she said once. Appointed as a minister during Mitterrand's first term, in the early 1980s, she said that seductiveness was part of a woman politician's arsenal. "To win a contract. you have to harass, perform a belly dance if necessary," she said.

Some of her fiercest critics still acknowledge the charm, which remains formidable despite a bout of illness during the past 18 months.

Leading article, page 19

Minister rebuffs critics to back Leonardo restorers

the Italian Culture Minister, yesterday stepped into a mounting controversy over the restoration of Leonardo da Vinci's Last Supper, now in its final stages.

She said during a visit to the church of Santa Maria delle Grazie in Milan, where the the work covers one wall of the refectory, that despite international criticism she had "every confidence" that the restored painting would be a "fitting tribute" to the greatness of Leonardo when it is un-veiled io May after 20 years of renovation. Officials said the visit was a demonstration of the Italian Government's trust in the beleaguered restoration team, headed by Giuseppina Brambilla, a Milan-based restorer who started work on the project in 1978.

Signora Melandri said the restoration made an "extraordinary impact" and was "proof of the excellence of Italian restoration". But critics said Leonardo's masterpiece, **Richard Owen**

on the furore over a project

lasting 20 years

which was decaying and faded when Signora Brambilla began her attempt to salvage it, had been not so much re-

stored as repainted". James Beck, professor of art history at Columbia Universi-ty and bead of ArtWatch International, a private charity which monitors art restoration, said: "What visitors will see is not Leonardo any more, it is a modern replacement. At most, only 20 per cent of what remains is original." The restorers had used watercolours

to "fill in the gaps". Pietro Marani, who is overseeing the restoration for the Culture Ministry, said the restorers were only "removing what was painted on top of

Leonardo over the centuries, We will be seeing the original for the first time.

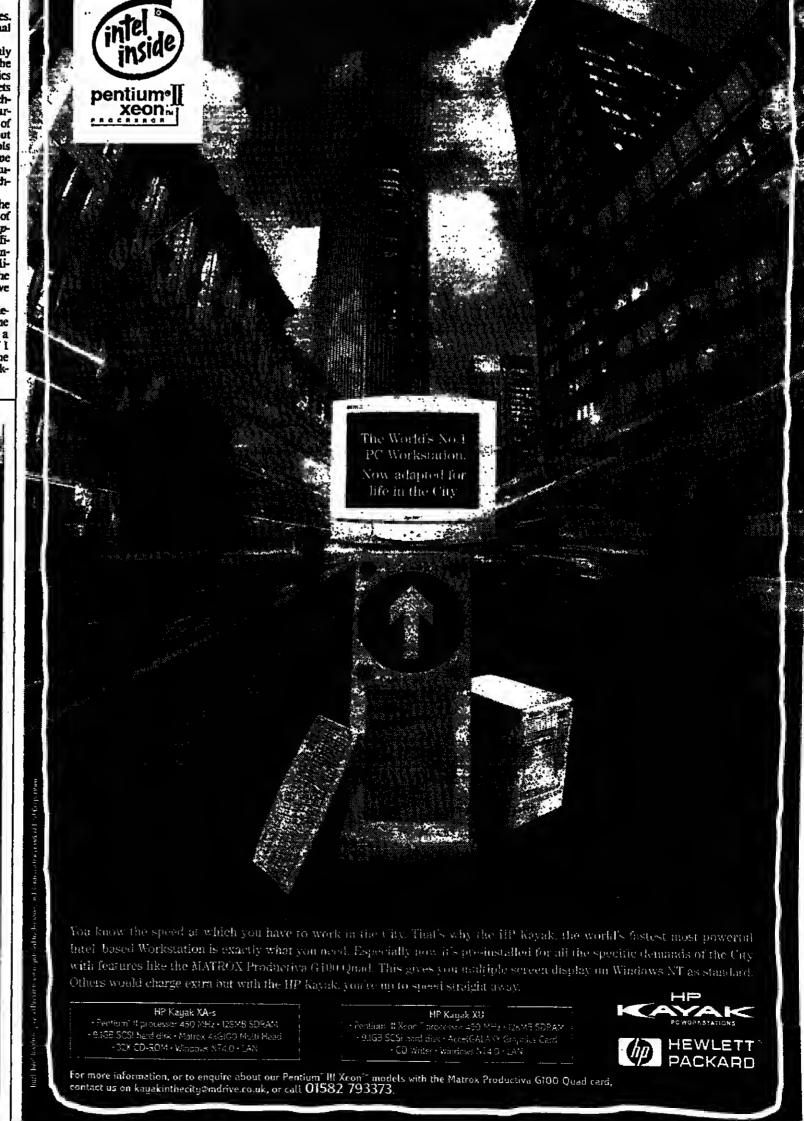
La Repubblica said Italy had "the best restorers in the world. If you believe critics like Professor Beck, Italy gets it wrong the moment it touches anything of historic and artistic value, from the Tower of Pisa to the Sistine Chapel. But if our art restoration schools are so incompetent, bow come they are full of foreign students learning Italian tech-

Carlo Bertelli, bead of the Italian Central Institute of Restoration, said the Last Supper project was "the most difficult restoration of century, including the restoration of Michelangelo's frescoes in the Sistine Chapel. We have saved a masterpiece.

Signora Brambilla clared: "Those who accuse me of ruining the painting are a long way from the truth. If I had wanted to repaint the Last Supper it would have taken a month, not 20 years."

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Kurdish rebels warn tourists to keep out of Turkey

By Andrew Finkel in istanbul and Michael Binyon

KURDISH rebels attacked Turkey's E5 billion tourist industry yesterday by warning foreigners to keep out of

the country.

"All Turkey is a battlefield, including those areas designated for tourism." a statement issued for the armed wing of the Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK) through the Germanbased DEM agency said. The statement, referring to the capture last month of Abdullah Ocalan, the PKK leader accused America, Israel and

"some European countries" of engag-ing in terrorism and piracy. It added: It is essential that no tourist comes to Turkey, that governments warn their citizens and that travel compa-nies cancel reservations."

The Foreign Office was holding talks with the British Embassy in Ankara yesterday to see whether it should advise tourists not to visit Turkey. Diplomats were also talking to travel firms about the warning.

The Foreign Office stiffened its travel advice yesterday in any case after recent bombings and attacks in Istanbul and elsewhere. It drew attention to the dangers of visiting certain parts of the country, and said that tensions had increased after the arrest of Mr Ocalan.

There has been a substantial number of terrorist incidents and public disturbances in Istanbul and sporadic attacks elsewhere in the country," the latest advisory note said. It added that there was unrest in the emergency-rule provinces of Van, Hakkari, Sirnak, Tunceli, Diya-

rbakir and Siirt in the southeast. Officials added that they were con-sidering more explicit warnings after the PKK statement yesterday. However any blanket warning against visiting Turkey would have a devastat-

ing impact on Turkey's tourism and economy. Britons form one of the largest groups of visitors and British tour operators pay close attention to ... Foreign Office advice.

This is not the first time that the PKK has warned foreigners not to take their holidays in Turkey. In most cases the threat of violence has been enough to discourage visitors in a sector that provides direct employment for an estimated million people. In 1994, a bomb did go off in the coast-al city of Marmaris, killing a 24-yearold British woman.

political position, denied a report that it had carried a news item saying that the warning had been retracted. "As far as we know, it still stands," a

nallpox nel terro

station employee said yesterday.

Turkish public opinion continues to be shocked by the fire bombing of an Istanbul clothing store in which 13 people died "Don't give in." a head-line in the neuropean William could in line in the newspaper Millipet said in recognition of a new nervousness that has kept people at home and away from the cinema and crowded places. However the violence continued yesterday with a bomb explosion MED-TV, a London-based televi-sion station sympathetic to the PKK's outside the European Union office. Ankara. A passer-by was injured. outside the European Union office in

Jordan protests at Israeli water cut

the Sea of Galilee, Israel's main reservoir of drinking water, was at its lowest level

since 1908. "We must face the facts; it is impossible that Isra-

el should have to carry out the burden of this severe drought," he added. "We are suffering a deficit of 60 per cent in the Sea of Galilee this

year. Jordan is suffering a similar deficit in our mutual

source, the Yarmuk River, so I proposed to the Jordanians that we both share the deficit." Israel is bound to supply the

55 million cubic metres annual-

which runs into the Sea of Gal-

ilee between Jordan and the Is-

raeli-occupied Golan Heights.

The Yarmuk's headwaters rise

in Syria, and diplomats be-

lieve that the river has the po-

tential to be an explosive issue in a region fraught with politi-cal and environmental threats.

complained about unilateral

Syrian actions which have

affected the quality and level

Kamil Mahadin, the Jordanian Water Minister, told the BBC that Jordan was facing water cuts anyway, and Israel had no right to ask Jordan to share Israel's difficulties. "This agreement is binding."

Binyamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, tried to

play down the crisis, which fol-lowed criticism by the new

Hashemite monarch about larger's relusal to implement key sections of the Wye peace

accord with the Palestinians.

forthcoming in the water

arrangements," Mr Netanya-hu claimed. "We have gone

well beyond some of the provi-

issue on the Jordanian politi-

cal agenda. Last summer a scandal over foul-tasting and

evil-smelling drinking water in Amman led to the sacking

of the then Water Minister

and helped to undercut the

standing of the then regent.

Prince Hassan, who was later

deposed as heir by King Hus-

Lack of water is an emotive

Both Israel and Jordan have

from the Yarmuk River,

SEVERE water shortages yes-terday plunged Israeli-Jordani-an relations into their first crisis since the accession of King Abdullah II after Israel said it could no longer meet its commitment to provide its Arab neighbour with the set amount of water.

The new dispute, the result of a drought affecting both countries, has underscored repeated warnings by Western experts that water rather than oil could be the prime cause of regional conflict in the next

In a related development, 600 Bedouin have entered Israel illegally from Sinai — land returned to Egypt under the 1979 peace treaty — and asked for asylum, claiming that their action was taken as a result of hunger arising from the drought, Israeli police report-

ed last night.

The police quoted some of the Bedouin who crossed illegally into the northern Negev desert as claiming that hundreds more intended to do likewise. "They arrived in whole donkeys, and infiltrated into Israeli territory on the night of Sunday to Monday." Shalom Hemo, police spokeman, said.

Naser Lauzi, the Jordanian Information Minister, responded to the Israeli water restrictions by announcing that they will be rejected. "Jordan insists on the full impleraeli treaty, and rejects any change in its terms," he said. The crisis erupted after Isra-

el informed Jordan that its annual allocation of water to the Hashemite kingdom, set by terms of the 1994 peace treaty at 55 millioo cubic metres, would be cut by 50 per cent. "I have a bucket of water and it is empty," Meir Ben-Meir, the Water Commissioner, said. Mr Ben-Meir revealed that

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Times readers are invited to a rare evening with John le Carré, one of Britain's bestselling novellsts, on Sunday, March 28, at 7pm.

Introduced by the Editor of The Times. Peter Stothard, the internationally acclaimed author will talk about his life and work, and read from his latest novel Single & Single. If you would like to ask John le Carré a question, please e-mail johnlecarre@the-times.co.uk. For more details visit The Times/le carré website at www.the-times.co.uk/lecarre.html.

The event, which forms part of The Word literary festival, will be held at the LSE Peacock theatre, Portugal Street, off Kingsway, London WC1. Tickets cost £9 and can be booked on 0171-863 8222

TIMES • DILLONS • FORUM



Sheridan: no evidence of serious corruption

Games verdict: Sydney broke the rules

FROM ROGER MAYNARD

AN official report issued yes-terday after an inquiry into Sydney's successful bid to host the 2000 Olympics found that there were repeated ed breaches of International Olympic Committee guidelines but no evidence of serious bribery or corruption.

The finding came as pres-sure grew for the resignation of the Australian IOC member. Phil Coles, from the Sydney organising committee, after he was given a "most serious warning for accept-ing expenses-paid holidays from future Winter Olympics

host Salt Lake City.

During a day of intense scrutiny into Sydney's campaign to host next year's to Sydney's bid conduct said bundreds of thousands of pounds had been spent on



red-carpet treatment to per-suade them to award the Games to the Australian city and not to its main rival.

Beijing.
Tom Sheridan, a lawyer appointed by the New South Wales government to hold an independent investigation in-

gifts to IOC members, ranging from clothes to samptu-ous dinners. Some members were offered excursions to Australia's Great Barrier Reef, while others enjoyed paid stopovers in Asia en.

While Mr. Sheridan said

bers visiting Salt Lake City, he criticised the bid company for arranging the transport of seven wild Mongolian horses to Mongolia to satisfy the Mongolian IOC member, Shagdarjav Magvan. Michael Knight, the New

South Wales Olympics ministhat he had uncovered noting for vesterday wined calls for ing on the scale of the induce. Mr Coles to stand down after ments offered to IOC mem-accepting gifts.

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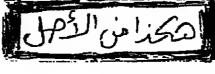
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'Secret stores' of smallpox virus fuel terror fears

AMERICAN government sci-enists gave a warning yester-day that destroying the last iv. laboratory samples of smilpox virus could leave the world prey to attack by terrorist who may be hiding secret steks of the disease for use as a liological weapon. malipox, or Variola virus.

was officially eradicated in 190, and in 1996 the World Halth Organisation reached a consensus recommending tha all remaining official staks of smallpox be incinerated next June. Scientists now fear, however, that samples of th virus may have fallen into the hands of terrorist groups or rutinw states with potentially attastrophie consequences. Presure is mounting to retain sone samples of the virus that could be used to create anti-viraidrugs and a new vaccine against the disease.

n a report for the US Govcriment published yesterday. a finel of the National Acadeny of Sciences Institute of Mdicine concluded that the exting stocks of smallpox offeed "the chance to develop nev anti-viral agents to proex citizens against a future oubreak of smallpox which could occur, for example, as th result of a bio-terrorist at-

Scientists want to retain official stocks, reports Ben Macintyre in Washington

tack". The panel feared that "an attack with smallpox could be especially lethal because people are no longer vaccinated against the disease". In theory, the smallpox virus now exists in two govern-ment-run US and Russian lab-

oratories, in Alabama and Siberia, but many scientists believe that samples are also being held in secret elsewhere. One would have to be ridiculously optimistic to conclude that there are only two locations in the world where smallpox is stored," Amy Smithson.

an expert on biological weap-ons, told The Washington Post. Donald Henderson, the US doctor who led the battle to wipe out smallpox in the 1960s and 1970s, said there was "no question* that stocks of the virus in Russia could be restricted to the Siberian laboratory. Before a 20-year internation-

Scoul family, in a monthly defence drill yesterday, prepare for an attack by the North Koreaus

al medical campaign finally wiped out the disease, the high-ly contagious virus killed and scarred millions. Death fol-lowed for one in five of all who became infected.

The last recorded case hap-pened in Birmingham in 1978, when the virus escaped from a laboratory, killing one person and pushing the scientist in charge of the laboratory to suicide. Smallpox samples in laboratories around the world were progressively destroyed throughout the 1980s, but the Soviet Union continued to create vast amounts of the virus long after signing a 1972 treaty outlawing production. Ken Alibek, a former official

at the Siberian laboratory in Koltsovo who defected to the US in 1992, told Congress last year that the Soviet Union had not only produced "hundreds of tonnes of anthrax . . . along with dozens of tonnes of smallpox and plague", but had also created hybrid, possibly vaccine-resistant, strains of smallpox, by genetic "splicing" with other diseases.

Supporters of the plan to destroy remaining stocks argue that any attempt to use smallpox as a biological weapon would be seen as a "horrendous crime against humanity' and that even the most extreme terrorist or pariah state would shy away from such a move. It is also argued that retaining even a small stock of the virus poses a far greater security threat than ordering its formal destruction.

In May, representatives of the World Health Organisation's 190 member states will meet in Geneva to review the decision on incinerating the remaining stocks of virus on June 30. It is unlikely to pass the resolution to eradicate the virus stocks if both the US and Russia oppose the move - and a plague that was soon to have been rendered officially extinct may be granted a last-minute



Irene Sáez, a former Miss Universe, celebrates her election as Governor of Margarita, a leading Venezuelan tourist island, with nearly 71 per cent of the vote. Señora Sáez, 37, who came a distant third in Venezuelan presidential elections three months

Worldly win for Miss Universe

ago, is now expected to make a quick return to the national political stage she dominated as a leader in opinion polls in 1996 and 1997. Proclaimed

Miss Universe in 1981, she gained a reputation for efficiency and honesty during two terms as mayor of an af-fluent district of Caracas, the Vene-

zuelan capital. The Margarita post became vacant in January after the death of Rafael Tovar, a newly reelected Governor. Señora Sáez was backed by a hotchpotch of parties, including the ruling Fifth Republic Movement. (Reuters)

'Mother is to blame'

Washington: Boys whose mothers smoked during pregnancy are more likely to grow up to be criminals or act violently, new research says (Damian Whitworth writes).

Damage to the nervous system, it appears, may be the cause of behaviour that can last into adulthood. The study, from Emory University in Atlanta, found that the effect transcends class: even after social factors, parental psychiatric problems and the father's criminal history were taken into account, the link between ante-natal smoking and law-breaking remained.

Clintons present a united front FROM DAMIAN WHITWORTH IN WASHINGTON

join him at another event on doned plans to travel with the

Thursday.

BILL and Hillary Clinton last night put on a united froot in the face of reports that their marriage is at breaking point. Mrs Clinton, who either has a bad back or cannot bear to

be in her husband's company depending on whether you believe her office or a string of news stories, was co-hosting a millennium event with the President at the White House at which some of the century's greatest women were to be cele-

She is also expected to appear at a St Patrick's Day reception with Mr Clinton tomorrow and is scheduled to The first thaw in their report-

edly chilly relations came on Sunday, when Mrs Clinton braved a wintry Washington day to join her husband at church. The First Lady, a Methodist, often leaves her husband to attend the Foundry United Methodist Church alone on Sundays. But they were all smiles as they arrived together to hear the pastor. Philip Wogaman, deliver a sermon on the "disciplines of

Mrs Clinton is under intense scrutioy after she aban-

President to Central America last week. She caused further comment when she left Mr Clinton to make a sentimental journey alone to his birthplace

of Hope, Arkansas. At the dedication of the wooden home where he lived as a boy. Mr Clinton described himself as "far from perfect" but thanked friends for standing by him and repeated his famous line from the 1992 campaign: "I still believe in a place called Hope."

According to her office. Mrs Clinton had a bad back and had been unable to travel. She remained at the White House talking to advisers about a possible run for the Senate from New York.

However, one of a number of news reports about frozen relations between the couple said that she had stayed behind because she did not want people to note that she wanted a separate room from her husband. She was quoted as saying: "I don't want to be in the same room as him, let alone the same bed."

Blazing rows were also reported as the reason the couple cut short their recent skiing



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Don't waste your doctor's time color ople who do not need medical ention. They are to blame for a gish NHS, says Christine Webber

Each day GPs see an estimated 300,000 people who do not need medical attention. They are to blame for a sluggish NHS, says Christine Webber

Doesn't

everyone

there is no

cure for

a cold?

has just found a lump in her breast is phoning the health centre - only to find that there are no appointments available until

Meanwhile, a suicidal undergraduate is trying to ring the same practice. He is calling from a public telephone box, which other students are queueing up to use. The persistently "busy" signal is a fur-ther calamity in a day that has started badly. He gives up and goes for a walk by the river.

A woman doubled up with menstrual pain is also phoning the surgery. She persuades the practice manager that she must be seen that day and is given an emergency appointment — but not until late afternoon.

And an elderly gentle-man who has finally plucked up the courage to ask for help with impotence phones the health centre but cannot bring himself to tell the harassed-sounding re-ceptionist the nature of his problem. Her brisk tone and the indignity of

What do these four people feel about their encounter with the NHS? They feel it has failed them - and so it has. But whom should they blame? The usual suspects are the Government for not allocating sufficient funds, the doctors for not being effi-

cient enough and all those administrators - just because they are there. However, the plight of these genuinely sick people must be apportioned elsewhere. It is other patients who are to blame: selfish, irresponsible and demanding patients who visit the surgery un-necessarily, clogging up the system and wasting doctors' time and the country's money.

Recently I spent a morning counselling at a London practice where my husband works part-time as a GP, I was appalled at how many people were abusing the system by coming in with conditions — such as the common cold — that would get better of their own accord. It is. undoubtedly true that most of them were feeling miserable and quite poorly — the waiting room was

t is Monday morning. A awash with people sneezing over panic-stricken woman who each other — but what were they expecting the doctors to do? Doesn't everyone who hasn't been on the Moon for 30 years know that there is no cure for a cold?

What was needed, I felt, was for one brave doctor to stand up in the middle of all this snuffly humanity and send the lot home. Instead, for the next four hours, a constant stream of cold-sufferers coughed their way along the corridor to one of the duty GPs and emerged minutes later clutching a prescription for medicine that most medics will agree was unnecessary.

To be fair there were people there that day who definitely did need medical attention — tiny children, the elderly and asthmatics. But the vast majority of patients that morning should have stayed at home.

taken an aspirin with a hot lemon and honey drink and resigned themselves to the fact that they would feel lousy for a few days but would then recover. know that Of course, it isn't just

people with colds who cause a logiam in the health system. While I was at that surgery a woman with a hacking cough visited my hus-band. "Do you smoke?" he asked.

"Only 20 a day."
"Would you like to make a longer appointment for another day so we can discuss ways of giving up?

"No thanks. I like smoking." "But your cough won't get better until you stop.

"I don't think anyone's proved that. What I want is some Vibramycin - that generally puts me right."

hen there was the mother who demanded tranquillisers for her 17-year-old daughter because she was about to take her driving test. The mother could not see that if her youngster were drugged to the eyeballs she might constitute a danger on the road, and was incandescent with rage when her request was re-

Another patient — a lad of 16 arrived with a sporting injury. He had hurt his ankle playing rugby over the weekend and had gone to casualty for an X-ray. My husband



Waiting to see the doctor. "Very often really sick people are not examined properly because the GP simply does not have enough time"

was surprised to see him. "What did they tell you at the A&E depart-

"Nothing broken. I've just got to keep my foot up for a few days." That was only two days ago.

Why are you here? "it's still hurting." 'It will hurt. You've done quite a

lot of damage." 'Can't you inject it or something? They didn't say I'd have any pain." That is the crux of the problem. Over the past half-century people have come to believe that it is their right not only to be cured but also to be relieved, instantly, of any pain or discomfort. It is this expectation of an NHS magic wand - something that even Aneurin Bevan at his most optimistic never promised - that results in hordes of patients abusing the NHS at primary-care

I estimate that every doctor sees a minimum of five time-wasting patients at every surgery. He takes two surgeries daily and there are 30,000 GPs in this country. So nationwide, every day, doctors are

seeing 300,000 people more than they need to. That's a lot of doctors' hours. If half these patients walk out with a prescription, it adds up to

a significant amount of money, too.
We all hear stories of people being denied expensive drugs for cancer, infertility, multiple sclerosis. Alzheimer's and the like. My belief is that if we all used the health service more wisely, then funds could be found for patients like these who desperately need it. And apart

So what can be done? A GP friend has a fantasy in which he issues yellow cards temporarily banning patients who misuse the system. But it's only a dream.

ment to acknowledge the problem and to devise guidelines of the appropriate use of the NHS. If the from the financial aspect, it is clear ple can be raught to be more considthat the volume of time-wasting erate of the environment, or to ac. The author is a psychotherasst.

patients means that very often really sick people are not examined they can surely learn to freat he properly because the GP does not health service with respect. his have enough time.

Covernment is powerful and poular enough to act and it mustors' representative body and he Patients' Association. form their intervention takes it needs to happen quickly, otherwise the poor NHS, which at 51 is already fooking menopausal, fill decline rapidly into schility.

active thyroid have atrial firil-

lation or irregular hearthat.

Any weight loss may be attib-

uted to depression, lethagy and failure to eat:

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CHANGING TIMES

Detecting thyroid disease

early one in ten peo-ple over 65 has thy-roid disease. It may be detected through routine medical examinations and blood tests, or because an astute doctor has noticed the symptoms when a patient has come about another problem.

In all age groups thyroid symptoms often start insidiously. Further diagnostic delay occurs in older age groups as the disease presents uself in a different way in those who are younger. Two journals, Hos-pital Medicine and The Practitioner, recently dealt with the difficulties that this causes for the over-65s. Eight out of ten cases of thyroid disease in older people are the result of too little thyroid, known as hypothyroidism. or myxoedema, often the result of earlier thyroiditis. Once this settles

fibratic and underactive. Twenty years ago a young artist developed Hashimoto's disease, a chronic inflammation of the thyroid that tends to affect younger age groups, and women rather than men. She initially had some treatment for overactivity of the gland but although advised that she would need, sooner or later, to start thyroid replace-ment therapy, she ignored the advice as being medical alarmism. Years later she was seen again, by which time she was anaemic, very overweight, had dry skin and lacklustre hair, a slow pulse rate, low blood pressure and felt permanently lethurgic. She had devel-oped the sparse eyebrows char-

the gland becomes shrunken,

with the outer third missing. and a husky voice. In other cases there are also changes in the cardiovascular system, including arteries that have furred up as a result of high levels of serum fats, such as cholesterol, damage to the heart itself, and the collection of fluid within the pericardium, the sac in which the heart lies. Other patients are left with too little thyroid after surgery, and the gland may have been affected by other diseases or the drugs used to treat them.

acteristic of thyroid disease.

Secondary hypothyroidism may stem from the failure of the hypothalamus or the pituitary gland to produce the hormone that stimulates the thyroid. Treatment is with thyrox-

MEDICINE CHEST **OR THOMAS STUTTAFORD**

ine. The dose must be closely

monitored when this replacement hormone is first intro-duced. If the heart has been beating slowly for years and its arteries are clogged as a result of raised cholesterol, a sudden increase in demand from it as a result of giving more thyroxine may push it beyond its limits and can even lead to a heart attack. Once a stable state has been reached, frequent monitoring is unnecessary, but patients must take thyroxine for the rest of their days.

In older patients the symp toms of a hyperactive thyroid may not be obvious. They may suffer from increasingly poor appetite, cold skin and deterioration in their senses, including bearing and intellect symptoms that are all too commonly present even if the older person has a normal thyroid. Before Alzheimer's disease, for instance, is diagnosed, blood tests to assess thyroid hor more levels are essential.

Patients with overactivity usually display nervousness and notice the heat, so that there is increased sweating. Their hearts race and they complain of palpitations and breathlessness. They, or their families, will have noticed that they have developed a fine shake. Vision may be blurred, the eyes may be prominent. Despite a vora-

cious appetite, they will have regularly lost weight and may also become very overactive, sleepless and irritable.

In old age these striking symptoms can be missing, but the patients may be suffering from so-called apathetic hyperthyroidism. They may just appear rather weak and breathless. More than 50 per cent of older patients with an over-

For the very young or thee with big thyroids, overadve glands can be treated with irgery. Older patients may hive radioactive iodine. Generaly. the standard treatment is iblets, especially carbimazole

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يحره ومهار والمائية

What does it feel like to die?

vibrant, lies dying in a house in Cam-bridge, Massachusetts. Her four children, the products of three marriages, drift in and out of the room, watching her, holding her hand, listening to her incoherent talk. As she falls in and out of consciousness, monitored by a faintly sinister Irish nurse wielding a syringe of morphine, she recalls fragments of her life: her first marriage, her youthful career as a singer, her second husband, her country club years, the birth of her children. And a weekend at a wedding in Maine when she was in her early twenties and met the love of her life.

It was a one-night stand. The man — or boy, rather — went off and married a glamorous Italian: but for Ann, the protagonist, the night was a pivotal moment. Throughout her life she buried that night's memory, but on her deathbed she remembers infinite details the smell of the North Atlantic the scent of balsam; the memory of her lover's voice; the dark sunglasses he wore when they first met: the straightness of his back. As she lies dying. lasting away, that night comes back to her in a thou-

sand different ways. Evening is a book about dying and death, but it is not depressing. Rather, it is uplifting because it is about the richness of memory. The author, Susan Minot, quotes William Faulkner in the beginning, and it is a good choice: "I give it to you not that you may remember time, but that you might forget it now and then for a moment and not spend all your breath trying to conquer it." Like Faulkner's classic As I Lay Dying. Evening is not only about remembering. but also about forgetting. 'It is also about the unreliability of memories," Minot points out. doesn't remember Harris, her lover, so much as she remembers the balsamscented cushion."

Anyone who has ever sat in in a death vigil, holding the hand of someone they love, listening to them talk - sometimes uttering nonsense, sometimes extraordinary revelations - will understand this novel. Minot has sat through many and admits that she has had a longstanding obsession with death. "It's a given; it's like breathing air," she says.

Susan Minot has devoted five years to writing about death. But her book is uplifting. Interview by Janine di Giovanni

'I wanted

to write

about

what it

feels like

to die

knowing what you will pull

out and knowing that it is go-ing to hurt like hell. In one

haunting scene in Evening the

doctor tells Ann Lord that she

will not be alive in a few

months to watch the changing

of the aummn leaves. It is a

startling moment the inevita-

hie confrontation with her

death, and the helplessness

to you die you know that there

is a huge gulf between you and

them." says Minot. "You can

hold their hand, but illness is

very isolating." The after-effect

is also devastating. Minot says

that she was "stunned" for

years after her own

mother died, that it

took a long time

for the resonance

of it to go away. Minot is tiny

and blonde and

wears rings on

many fingers. Her publicist says she looks like Sharon

Stone, which is not

altogether true she is good-look-

ing, but it is an old-

fashioned New

England preppy.

look, not a glamor-

ous one. Minot looks very

much like what she is - the

product of an old, extended

(seven children) Boston Catho-

lic family: lots of prep schools,

Ivy League universities, Ken-nedys, sailing, four sisters

hanging out together, and big white clapboard houses over-

New York but travels a great

deal, packing everything into

two bags and taking off for

London, Rome, Africa or

in apartments in Rome or

mud buts in the Masai Mara

Every wedding list tells a story

o this is added her so-

phisticated element

probably loathes the American preppy scene. She is based in the West Village in

I suspect that she

looking the Atlantic.

"If you watch someone close

felt by those around her.

years to write, is dedicated to three people: friends who died suddenly and horribly in a short space of time. That was not Minot's first experience of death. When she was 21 her mother was killed in a freak accident when her car was hit by a train after an ice storm: a few months later both her grandmothers died. That was e year all the mothers died,"

Although it was not relevant to the writing of the book, when we meet she is recovering from the death of her father George a month earlier from cancer. Unlike her mother, who died suddenly, he died

within a few months of cancer being diagnosed. "I don't know which is worse, sudden death or lingering." she says. She was with her

father at the end. She had finished writing Evening by then, but it was an eerie, terrible coincidence that he died in bed, "looking out through his canopy at a painting of the charge on Gettys-

burg". It is such details that people remember when they sit with a dying friend or relative: and this book could not have such emotional reso-nance had Minot not experienced, or lived through, those "I wanted to write about

what it feels like to die," she says. "My first encounter with the deathbed vigil was my grandmother, then my friends and when someone dies, at the end they always have a similar face. I was drawn into the disturbance of it."

I know from experience that it is not easy to write about death, in particular the death parent. I am writing a book about the death of my own father, and it is the most difficult thing I have ever done, like reaching down into The book, which took five some horrible hole and not

Gift services can reveal more about a couple

than they really want, says Grace Bradberry

her. But she is also extremely disciplined. "I stay in friends" houses when I am writing, hut I tell people 'No, I can't have hunch, but I can meet you in the evenings'," she says. Then I just go to my room and

It is an enviable life, but it is also highly disciplined. Still in her early forcies, she has written four books, a screenplay screenplay of Evening for Disney Films, and has already started another screenplay and a oew novel.

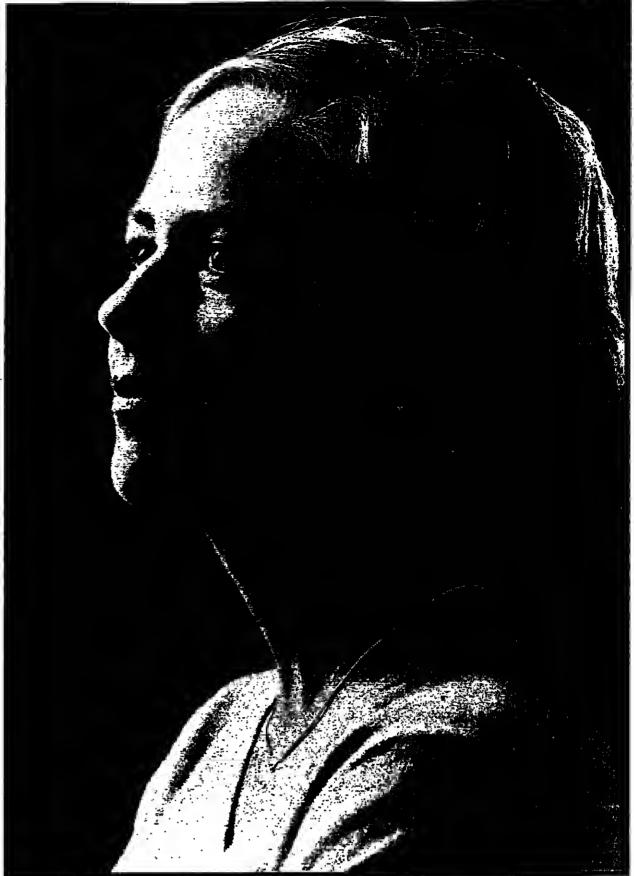
Unlike her American literary contemporaries, Minot has something of an edge, a classiness, a style of writing that would be more at home 100 years ago than today. One could not imagine her penning American Psycho. for instance: there is more of the Edith Wharton, the elegant observer, about her. "Sue is like something out of another century, says her great friend, the screenwriter Zara Colchester. Like a Victorian lady traveller, always taking her box of paints and her notebook wherever she goes. The only mod-

ern thing she does is e-mail." Minot laughs at this, but it is true. She takes her watercolours everywhere: the producer Julian Ozanne, with whom she is writing a script about the romance of Africa, says that when they broke down at a treacherous mountain pass while travelling in South Afri-ca recently, she got out her sketchbook and sat on a rock and calmly began drawing. "She is the most self-contained person I know," he says.

She writes everything in

longhand, with a pen dipped in ink, and then transcribes it on to a manual typewriter. 'It's the way I've always written," she says. "Nothing, not a computer or a typewriter, makes the process faster. It's a slow, slow process." When Bertolucci read one of her earlier novels, Monkeys (which is loosely based on her family life with her seven brothers and sisters), he rang and asked her to write the screenplay for Stealing Beauty, a film about a young American girl's coming of age in Tuscany. Minot conceded to write the screenplay, first by hand. then using a computer. I sense Egypt. She stays with friends she was not happy about this.

There are not many people around brave enough to tackle overlooking a bend in the riv- the subject of death, failed love er. She has friends every- or memory: it is so much easi-



Susan Minot: "If you watch someone die you know that there is a huge gulf between you and them"

er to write Bridget Jonesinspired rubbish. But this is timeless, classic stuff.

As Minot once said: "Knowing you are going to die Is a shadow that waves over our lives. We manage for the most part not to think of it. For me. it's hard not to feel death as the

 Evening is published by Chatto & Windus this month.

> stores will allow couples to pool money spent, then redistribute it is on

something any bride or groom ever discusses. The "bonuses" paid to

couples once the dosh has rolled in are equally

There is something oddly levelling about roy-

al wedding lists. Muffled

laughter and astonish-

ment greeted Lady Helen

Windsor and Tim Tay-

lor's selection, which

read like an Argos cata-

logue. Could it be that un-

til their wedding day they

had existed without a

washing machine, video recorder and portable hi-fi? It seemed extraordi-

nary - as did the request

for a Kleevex box cover

and a Super Nintendo. Evebrows were raised at

the other-worldliness of

Lady Sarah Armstrong-

Jones and Daniel Chatto

who wanted books of

poetry and ceramic

hush-hush.



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ould it be that James

Major wishes to resume his career at

Marks & Spencer? It seems

nny, otherwise, that having

ent the last year reinventing

himself as a lad-about-town,

he should choose to lodge his

wedding list in Magnolia

Land. You'd think a set of Met-

ropolitan Bar ashtrays and a

cocktail shaker would be

more his line. But perhaps

Emma Noble was in charge

Whatever, Major Minor's

wedding list provides an

amusing contrast with that of

Prince Edward and Sophie

of the china department.

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Rhys-Jones. The royal couple are directing their guests to adopt a cavalier attitude Thomas Goode, the Mayfair to the phone bill, drum up plenty of cheek and store that specialises in baroque dinner services and ornaments so OTT that the spend a good half-hour on the phone to the approuninformed eye would take them for market stall finds. A priate store changing your mind about price "cutlery canteen" can cost range and asking for £4,000. Pity Sophie's friends exact descriptions of the crockery. Finally, express as they phone Thomas Goode asking what there might be for £50. A teaspood will be a desire to buy "something a hit different" and you will discover their

about the limit. Wedding lists provide an worst lapse of taste. opportunity for guests to Of course, no true assess the tastes and aspirafriend would indulge in tions of friends. You may nevsuch behaviour - but er have such a chance again. James and Emma and

Edward and Sophie will be lucky if they do not have one or two guests who are secretly irked by their lifestyles. James and Emma, who have been much photographed "swanning about", are probably wise

not to provoke resentment with an aspiration-al wish list. Hence the absence, no doubt, of Versace tableware, Cactus loo brushes and Dualit toasters.

Even if your entire extended family is riveo by bitter dipoint some guests to one, some to the other. That a few vorce, nothing in the nuptial

James and Emma: modest shenanigans will be as sensitive as the wedding list. I've known people choose two lists, one at John Lewis and one at the Conran shop, and

plates by Jean Cocteau. There is a quid pro quo, however — the hap-py couple get to assess the extent of your generosity. Prince Edward is surely unlikely to do well out of the Linleys. When they married he splashed out precisely £52 on some cups and saucers.



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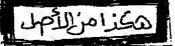
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Tories have no right to be silent

Hague must defend our public

servants from the race radicals

ver the snap and crackle of the Rice Krispies, as the Pop-Tarts jump from the toaster, we can just make out the chit-chai of the kitchen table. The Tories have been listening to Britain, and father's grumbles at the rising cost of petrol strike a chord. But there are three themes that are durable conversational staples - the toast, butter and marmalade of kitchen-table talk. They are health, education and crime. The Conservative guest types the trio into his Psion organiser and withdraws with polite

It was Michael Portillo who coined the first kitchen-table metaphor for the Conservatives. "You know what it's like when a couple have fallen out of love," he told the Tory party conference in 1997, "when even the way one partner pours milk on the cornflakes drives the other mad?" That's how the voters saw the Tories every reminder of their presence was an irritation.

It was also Mr Portillo who. last week, articulated one way by which the Tories could prove themselves worthy again — by learning to love the public services to which the British public had always been devoted. Mr Hague endorsed that view at the weekend, seeking to align his party with the nurses, teachers and policemen who provide the healthcare, education and crime protection that voters value.

The Conservatives, however, have a problem in becoming the party of public servants. The party of the smaller State will find it difficulty to outbid a centre-left Government in a financial auction for their affections. There is however, one issue, central and urgent. could present themselves as

the champions of the public sector. The Conservatives could defend public servants from the unjust, unproven and demoralising charge of "insti-utional racism" which has been so promiscuously flung at them in the past month. yet they are silent In the absence of any politi-

cal opposition, the charge of institutional racism has been applied to the police, teachers and nurses. The Royal College of Nursing accepted the libel with scarcely a murmur. Not since Lucifer's revolt in Heaven, we are asked to believe, have there been so many

But it is one of the principles of basic justice that an uncorroborated confession is no proof of guilt. And where is the ethnically or gender-based, advocate the public sector needs to protest at this unproven charge? The Conservative Party mumbles apologies and hands back the brief.

William Hague, speaking at the weekend, did touch on the radical assult directed at society's protectors. "Our police force has come in for a lot of criticism in the last month," he noted. "But let's never forget." he added, "what a magnificent job these brave men and women do for our community". The Tory leader may have been anxious to reassure the police that they had a defender in him, but his defence was more a plea in mitigation than

a direct rebuttal of the criticism they have endured.

The Tory leader did not tackle, and has not rejected,

the specific accusations which have been directed at the force. The Macpherson inquiry succeeds in exposing incompe-tence but fails to prove that it prefers the infinitely malleable charge of "unwitting racism".

tt seeks to damn without securing what any court would require before pronouncing guilt — clear evidence of motivation. How can consequations stay either while Conservatives stay silent while the idea is advanced that reasoning individuals are guilty of crimes that they did know they committed. institutions as a whole can be condemned for their collective, and unconscious, views, and society as a whole has to be changed radically to atone for

There is evidence of sensitivity to race influencing police operations. But it points in a direction quite contrary to Sir William's conclusions. The Home Office has confirmed that 64 per cent more in overall resources and 35 per cent more in officer days have been devoted to solving the murders of black victims as compared with white victims. In 1997-98 the overall clear-up rate for murders was 24.9 per cent. But if the victim was black, the clear-up rate was 41.4 per cent. The weapons are there to defend the

> unjustified assault. but the Tories fear to pick them up. Their reluctance is opportunity missed to champion those with a legitimate griev-ance. But it reflects a deeper failure.

public sector from

William Hague has, wisely, noted that the Tories can no longer be merely. "the economics

party". Where they were once fiscally numerate, they must learn to be culturally literate and speak the language of "values". But the Conservatives seem rejuctant to recognise that the most potent cultural assault on Britain's liberal values comes from the who wrap their radical purpose in the reassuring tapestry of "multiculturalism".

The Tory thinker John O'Sullivan, in a brilliant lecture to the Centre for Policy Studies, has pointed out that the cultural assault on institutions goes beyond the public sector troika of nurses, teachers and police to the traditional Tory trinity of individual. family and nation state. The grievances of groups, whether are held to transcend the rights of individuals, and the culture of a nation such as Britain's is judged to be so rooted in an oppressive history

that it must be deconstructed. Do the Tories still believe they are so resented that their intervention in defence of unfairly vilified public servants would be as irritating as the unloved spouse's pouring of milk on the cornflakes? Or will they have the courage to recognise that finding their voice in defence of these institutions would be a pouring of oil on troubled waters?

michael.gove@the-times.co.uk



At home and so at risk

repare to be harrowed. The NSPCC launches its biggest ever campaign this evening — "Full Stop" — with television advertising in which Alan Shears and the Said Circle histories.

Shearer and the Spice Girls histrionically shield their eyes from horrid vigneties of mothers losing control, abusers looming, fathers scream-ing, toddlers crying for help. Don't think you'll get away from it: there will be posters, interviews and a fusillade of awful statistics - a quarter of all rape victims are children, 100 a year are killed in their own homes, new babies are five times more likely to be murdered than adults. On top of that, the charity says that although 35,000 children are on the child protection registers, they still believe that most cases of cruelty go

There will be resolutions: about new services, new partnerships, new support for stressed families. There will be celebrity endorsements from everyone from media psychlatrists to someone called Baroness Thatcher, who - unless I am thinking of another peeress of the same name was not previously famed for her keenness to provide new services for disadvantaged families. The aim is "to enlist every individual and organisation in a mission to end ruelly to childr reduce it: to end it, full stop. Well, of course, they won't. The

unreported.

strong tend to prey upon the weak, and adults are stronger than chil-dren. So are their older siblings; one of the more startling findings is that a small child is almost as likely to be killed by a brother or sister (4 per cent) as by a stranger (5 to 6 per cent). The one inescapable fact is that 95 per cent of child murders are family matters: a third of the killers are mothers, nearly half are their boyfriends or husbands. As for the victims, 40 per cent are not yet one year old, and another 20 per cent are under four. And this is just the ones who die. Think of those who don't: terror-

ised, tortured, traumatised, neglect-ed and with dreadful irony, often thereby made incapable of treating their own future children properly.

But oh, what a task! As it happens, I think the NSPCC is right to take its grand sweeping attitude, but it must know that not all the implications will be popular. It is easy to state aims and to raise funds for helplines, "Birth Packs" and the rest; the difficult bit is to reach right inside the darkness of the most dangerous families and pluck the children to safety. The even more

difficult bit is to persuade the rest of

Cruelty to children demands state

intervention in the family — and fast

us that in doing so, you are not endangering the civil liberties and family privacy of the majority. For we are in the middle of a quiet but genuine backlash against public

intervention in the family unit. The backlash was caused by the discredited witch-hunts by social workers in the 1980s, and is aggravated by the prurient stress on sexual—rather than purely violent—abuse, and by scandals in the care system. The result is a general mood of cynicism about anyone "interfering" in the family. Media analysis report a sharp decline in the coverage of

child deaths during this decade, and

the charity concludes that the media is only interested in blaming professionals or stran-gers, not families. Yet the figures show that a child is 20 times more likely to be killed at home than on the street; and an 18-year study suggests that unknown

causes" have in fact been killed by their parents. But the media know their public. The reason they dwell on wicked

strangers and paedophile rings is that we prefer monsters to muddles. It is easier to and plagued by narcotics and other read about Robert Oliver or Marc quick-fix pleasures. Individuals are read about Robert Oliver or Marc Dutroux than to contemplate the reality of a dim, unthinking woman so desperate for love that she lets a drunken bully kick her baby about; or a couple so locked in perverse folie d deux that a habit grows up between them of tormenting a child whose defiance or awkwardness baffles them; or a whole family out of control, mazed by poverty, bore-dom, futility and drugs into a communal state of denial about the small child starving in the filthy

These things happen. The differ-ence is that ten years ago they routinely led to an outcry against social workers for not taking the child away from its parents sooner. Nowadays it is more popular to side with parents whose children are "snatched" by authority.

The NSPCC asks for a govern-ment "Commissioner for Children". for rigour in reviewing child deaths, for public and media help and for better communication — at the moment it is almost ludicrously possible to slip, as the West children did, into the information gap between police, social services and

It pledges to "encourage" govern-ment to devote resources to children and families. But it falls short of openly challenging the big sacred cow: the view that natural families are best. It does not say - how could it? - the unsayable truth that some are no place for a child at alk

I am not a pessimist; on the whole, families of all social groups amaze me with their kindness, stoicism and good-will towards the weaker members, young and old. I would have no hesido with less, not more, state interference. But there are hard exceptions. needing hard-nosed and decisive action. Their number

may be growing:

more disjointed society, haunted by material ambition culturally encouraged to live for self-fulfilment at all costs.

This is dangerous for children, whose safety and happiness depend on adults' willingness to stay sober, keep on decent terms with the neighbours and the community, and to sacrifice some of their own fun. Self-indulgence, weakness and

stupidity easily turn into violence (how many children have been struck down simply because the clear, troubled innocence in their eyes infuriates an adult who hates the constant reminder that he or she is in the wrong?). At the moment, the received wisdom of social work is that such adults - especially if they are female - must be under-stood. "supported" and "educated" and given another chance. This happens to fit in rather well with the comment@the-times.co.uk

shortage of decent public care and the ponderousness of the adoption system. But where a child's safety is concerned, support and education are only the answer if they work very quickly indeed. If not, Pollyanna optimism is out of place: the child's interests are oot necessarily those of the muddled, useless, dangerous parent, and the child's come first.

One of the most chilling testimonies at the time of the Bramley uproar was from a seasoned fosterer, John Waite of the BBC, who wrote about the difficulty of band-ing a child back to grim natural parents when ordered to. He told of a small boy who had tried to hide under the bathwater when someone unthinkingly said "Daddy's coming"; he went back to Daddy.

Another arrived pale and silent.

blossomed in his weeks with them. and wept when he was returned into a terrible room where dim, lethargic, parents barely acknowledged his arrival over the racket of the television. Waite said stoically that fosterers have to get used to it, because that is the deal; perhaps we should think more carefully about the deal and banish institutional sentimentality about the blood tie.

finished writing a novel recentwho only likes babies and dislikes her 11-year-old. In one . scene she dismissively says "that kid never brought me no luck". I thought I was caricaturing this minor character, and worriedly showed the passages to three separate child protection workers. They all assured me that I have, on the contrary, been very soft. One observed that her problem with younger staff is that faced with an expressive, self-pitying adult, they are swept away in empathy and forget that the child has no voice. The mother says she loves the baby, and bas had a hard time in her life, and they stop seeing the scars on the child."

But if we are to be tougher about removing children from dangerous parents, other things must change. Care should be far, far better, fostering more honoured and adoption much faster (at the moment it takes double the average time in America, for an identical failure rate). And children, who need protection most, must be put firmly at the centre of policy and not regarded as an expensive by-prod-uct. Thus far, at least, the NSPCC has got it absolutely right.



Order of Merit. If selected, the theatrical dame will be the first actress to be so honoured.

The deaths of Sir Isaiah Berlin,

Ted Hughes, Lord Denning and Lord Menuhin have devastated the 24-strong group (tasteless sorts dub it the Order of Mortus because of the seniority of appointers). Surviv-ing members, such as Lord Jenkins of Hillhead and Baroness Thatcher, are rather dry (in their manner, not in their consumption). There is a will in royal circles to

revive the purpose of the Order, founded by Edward VII in 1902 to honour those "as may have rendered meritorious service towards the advancement of the arts, learnthe advancement of the arts, learning, literature and science. Dame Judi (below right) has stirred royals with Oscar-nominated displays such as Queens Victoria (in Mrs Brown) and Elizabeth (Shakespeare in Love). She will join only a handful of women in the Order after Florence Nightingale (left) Unusually in this Blairite era the

choice is in the gift of Her Majesty One OM, Max Perutz, a scientific sort, is uneasy: "I have known some very great actresses who deserve it. I do not know Dame Judi at all I have no idea who she is." But Dame Cicely Saunders is a

fan and eagerly awarts the chance



ace: "We have lunch with the Queen and the Duke, who both lous mixed bag. I have enormous confidence in the Queen's choice."

JACK STRAW is pursuing his Jamily policy with gusto. The Home Secretary has appointed trustees of the new National Family and Parenting Institute, including Ed Straw, forgetting to mention that he is his brother.

SPEND a weekend spying with Rupert Allason. The former MP little romps run by a Midlands hotel for £198, would be John le Carrés can listen to an after-dinner speech by Allason on "the secret world - the MI5, MI6, that sort of thing" to tee up a tour of Bletchley Park, RAF bases used by wartime secret agents, and Kim Philby's haunts in St Albans. "Spy buffs will love it," suggests Aliason, limbering up in the Caribbean.

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HINTS that Clive Anderson (below) may return to the Bar. The TV host kept his name on the door at 4 King's Bench Walk and has been dropping by for drinks. He that has told friends that he misses the law and felt happiest before being struck by the curse of celebrity.



THE Savoy is to take a more relaxed view of suitless sorts. I hear that this follows an awkward stene when Bili Gates was asked to slips tie over his polo-necked cranium One suggestion is that staff will now be allowed to employ their considerable powers of discretion.

Regulars worry. Nicholas Soames thunders: 'It is deplorable. The point about it is that it doesn't allow jeans wearers who look as if they have stepped out of a gay bar.

SINCE the election, ministers : have issued 18,000 press releases. It was Jo Grimond who noticed the inverse relationship between the printing of such notices and the taking of political action:

APPEALING to new Labour natural constituency. Philip Golds addressed public school girls reconly. You have managed to pay school fees, so surely you can pay university fees, too? argued Good. This went down so well with the hockey sticks that poor Philip will lucky to escape unscathed.



STREET FIGHT MMPs plan to stop truffic jums d

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JASPER GERARD

'In the Bulger case the justice system delivered a verdict which brought some peace to our troubled hearts, only to be subjected to mad Euro litigation' **Roger Scruton** er be made. People are learning "rights". And since duties are not mine but other people's, nobody

British justice, and the English law in which it is based, have enjoyed the confidence not only of the British that brought some peace to our people but of the enrire civilised world. The law remains our most important invisible export. The iury system, the common law conception of duty, the doctrine of precedent, the system of appeals, the rigid separation of solicitor and barrister, the brilliant device of equity — all these bestow on the English law an ability to do justice in situations that had never been envisaged by Parliament.

But all that is changing. First, our native sense of justice, derived from a law that places duty before right and precedent before innovation, is being overridden by the rights-based law of the European courts: a law invented by ideologues and activists, with no roots in the customs and feelings of the people. We see subjected to mad litigation directed through the European Court of Human Rights, whose only interest is in the "rights" of those who committed this terrible

But the decay of our legal system comes not only from outside forces. There is an inward loss of respect for the law interests of the lawyers. Barristers are no longer representa-tives, defending their clients before an impartial judge, but legal activists, testing the law for the money that can be squeezed from it. Solicitors are no longer there to shield us from legal misfortune but to throw us into the fray, often charging on the basis of "no win, no fee" in the

hope of a share of profits. The Government's Access to Justice Bill, currently going through Parliament, can only exacerbate this trend. Gradually our courts are adopting the American practice of awarding damages not on the grounds of fault, but on the grounds of ability to pay. They are becoming machines for the redistribution of income, taking money from the innocent - and in particular from the innocent taxpayer - in order to reward

the "victim". regardless of fault. A doctor recently won nearly £500,000 damages from her health authority on the ground that she was no longer able to work, having accidentally jabbed her finger on a discarded hypodermic needle and having, in consequence, developed "needlestick phobia" - an ailment not Those assumptions can no long-

previously recognised by the law but immensely useful to such a

Now a doctor who can so easily develop a phobia about needles is clearly pursuing the wrong career. And the thought that she must be compensated in full for a weakness that is no different in kind from the weaknesses that so many of us either

suffer in silence or strive to overcome reflects a wholly immoral view of personal liability. The common law has depended upon tacit assumptions. One is that damages are granted in order to recitly a perceived legal wrong. Another is that people are moral beings, who take responsibility for their faults and deal with each other openly and fairly until things break down.

how to present themselves as "victims" of wealthy or well-insured enterprises, and relying on the rhetoric of barristers and the sympathies of judges to earn sums that they are rarely likely to earn by honest labour.

I hey are also acquiring a habit of "moral evasion", as David Selbourne has aptly called it - refusing to admit their faults, or to take responsibility for their lives, and shifting the burden of their existence on to others who, or so they imagine, can afford to shoulder it. They are also taking their cue

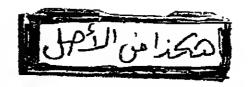
from the European courts, and rephrasing moral questions in terms of rights while refusing to recognise the existence of duties. Everything undesirable, and every call to behave better, is experienced as a violation of

has a "right" to complain about my offensive actions. The damage done by this emerging rights-based culture affects serious matters such as the balance of justice in the Bulger case, but also seeps into everyday dis-putes. As one defendant ex-pressed it in a recent noise pollution case "I like music and I like it loud so I can hear it. I feel I

The effect of the new style of litigation is that courts impose unjust penalties on innocent parties, while rewarding naked self-interest and calculating lidgiousness. The common law is "de-moralised", just like the people whom it serves. It then becomes a source of conflicts rather than a means for resolvine them.

comment@the-times.co.uk

ARCH - RA





SINS OF COMMISSION

Santer and his colleagues should quit in disgrace

Fraud, mismanagement, arrogance and contempt for public opinion: those have become the hallmarks of the European Commission. To the embarrassment of those who see the EU's top bureacrats as the basis for an expanding European government, billions of pounds can now be shown to have been wasted through incompetence and dishonesty. According to the yearly auditors' report the Commission's culture of cronyism has brought to the Commission some of the worst Spanish practices - and not only from Spain - that have sapped the motivation of thousands of civil servants in Brussels and eroded public confidence in European Union institutions.

Yesterday's report on the scandal has proved as damning and forthright as the Commission's most trenchant critics forecast. It said it was difficult to find anyone who had "even the slightest sense of responsibility". It confirmed, in chilling detail, the nepotism and the backhanders, the political patronage and tolerance of dubious practices that have been a feature of the Commission since its establishment in the 1950s. This Commission stands accused of being the most corrupt to hold office. Jacques Santer's belated attempt to distance himself from this culture of corruption has been as self-serving as it has been ineffective. It was only the European Parliament's threat to dismiss the Commission that brought any acknowledgement that anything was wrong.

The President of the Commission and all those named in the report should, if they had any honour, immediately resign. But the chances of their taking this minimum step are slight. Edith Cresson, the Commissioner most deeply implicated, has been by turn arrogant, defiant and conspiratorial. Refusing to acknowledge that hiring her dentist as a special adviser or putting four other unqualified cronies on her payroll was wrong or corrupt, she sees all the charges either as part of a German plot or

as a new manifestation of the male chauvinism which she blamed for her 1992 dismissal as Prime Minister of France. Her. devastating remark that she was guilty of no behaviour that was not standard in the French administrative culture may be accurate, but it has cost her the support of the French Government which may now decide her cause is indefensible.

Her fellow Commissioners are under enormous pressure to clean up before they leave office at the end of the year. But singling out Mrne Cresson will be difficult. Manuel Marin, one of the Spanish Commissioners, has been named, as have Monika Wulf-Mathies of Germany and João de Deus Pinheiro, the Portuguese Commissioner who found posts for his wife and brother-in-law. And fingers can still be pointed at several others who have not been named. M. Santer stands over it all.

If there are no resignations, sackings will not be easy. Invoking Article 160 of the Treaty of Rome, never before used, the President could apply to the European Court of Justice to have Mme Cresson removed on the ground of failing to perform her duty. If he were to choose not do so, the Council of Ministers, which can also take such a step, must act. Either way, it will be time-consuming and messy, and Mme Cresson will try to draw out proceedings. Some sections of the French Government, rightly ashamed of their nominee's record, may try to spin things out until November, when the issue will become moot. That should not be allowed to happen. An example must be made, and not only of the hapless Mme Cresson. The EU cannot open its eastern doors to a union of cronies. It must put on the agenda of the next inter-governmental conference machinery to deal swiftly with corruption and incompetence. And the besmirched Santer Commission should be remembered as a warning to those who would

CHILDREN IN COURT

replace them.

Humane arguments and flawed conclusions in the Bulger case

However many profoundly disturbing questions were raised by the sadistic murder of James Bulger, the toddler hacked to death by two ten-year-old boys in feel "out of place and in an oppressive and 1993, it has not hitherto seemed in doubt embarrassing environment". that Robert Thompson and Jon Venables ... Common sense suggests that this must received a scrupulously fair and humane trial, or that they were correctly found. guilty of what the trial judge termed an "acr of unparalleled evil". That has now been questioned by the European Commission of Human Rights.

The commission's reasoning appears somewhat tortuous. Young as the offenders were, it accepted that because each child "knew what he was doing was wrong", the test of criminal responsibility had been "correctly applied". Yet, deciding that their trial was not fair, it has sent the case to the European Court of Human Rights.

The nub of its case is that children of that. age should never be subjected to "public trial in an adult court with attendant publicity". It did not dispute that the boys understood the purpose of the proceedings and knew what was at stake, or that they were competently represented. It accepted that the court attended to their needs. shortening hearings and arranging for the presence of their social workers, and that their lawyers made no complaints at the I time. But it found that open trial in an adult court is of its nature so "severely intimidating" to a child that it is "deprived of the opportunity to participate effectively" and thus of a fair trial. The inference is that shielding young defendants from distress takes precedence over the deeply held view that justice should be seen to be done, and that in the very rare cases of juvenile

murderers that requires a public trial. This was not a unanimous view. To a dissenting minority, it was "impossible and unrealistic to demand that a fair hearing requires the accused to feel at ease, or fully in command of the complexities of a trial. If that were so, they argued, neither children, nor illiterates, nor those with mental problems or "low intelligence", nor

ever be tried. Even in trials held in camera. in youth courts, the unavoidable need for lawyers and witnesses would make a child

be so, and the court should take these arguments seriously. But it is also, in practice, a reasonable supposition that the Bulger trial format would not now be repeated in this country. Liberal legal opinion is moving towards something closer to the continental system of an examining magistrate for these fortunately rare cases. More significant for British law, should the court rule against the Government, are the commission's conclusions that it also breached the European Convention for the Home Secretary to alter a minimum sentence set by a judge, that the boys rights to a review of the lawfulness of their imprisonment have been violated, and that children should never receive more than a "short tariff".

It is a sound principle that sentencing is for judges, not politicians. The evolution of English law makes rare exceptions to this rule for particularly dreadful crimes. That was part of the social compact when capital punishment was abolished. In the Bulger case, the House of Lords ruled two years ago that, in raising the tariff, Michael Howard had acted unlawfully because he had been influenced by non-judicial considerations, notably a widespread public demand for stiffer sentences than had been set by the courts. Although that showed judicial review at work, the commission wants politics removed entirely from the judicial arena. But justice can never be absolutely removed from the domain of policy. If these rulings leave a sour taste with the British public, as they will, it will be because in the commission's concern for the rights of two child killers, it seems almost to overlook the particular horror of the crime, and their incontrovertible guilt. Hard cases make bad law; and bad law could result if the court does not set some, even those unfamiliar with the law, could at least, of these arguments aside.

STREET FIGHTING MAN

An MP's plan to stop traffic jams deserves government support

Today thousands of motorists will trundle past holes in the road, dug up for a different reason only a few weeks ago, with no workmen anywhere in sight. Their frustration might be tempered by news that Christopher Fraser, the Conservative MP for Mid Dorset and North Poole, is sponsoring a Bill under which companies would be fined if they failed to complete road maintenance within a specified time. Money raised would be given to local authorities to spend on road maintenance. This policy decongestant, lumbering down the legislative slow lane, offers much-need-

ed relief for drivers. The previous Government's attempts to unclog roads disappeared on Whitehall's hard shoulder. Under the New Roads and Streetworks Act 1991, the Secretary of State can require a company to pay a charge to a local authority if its work exceeds an agreed timetable. This Government, like the last, appears to harbour a central reservation about using this power, no doubt afraid of public utilities' response.

Hopes are pinned on the Streets Works Register, to be launched on the Internet next month. By requiring utility companies to register their requests to dig up a road, their work might be co-ordinated. Multiple incisions into main traffic arteries, such as London's Bishopsgate being dug up 333 times in three years, should be avoided.

Whether this system will be able to cope with the volume of roadworks in inner cities remains to be seen. In the London Borough of Camden alone, 20,000 holes a year are dug. Even if the public utilities do communicate on the electronic superhighway, there will still be no penalty for companies that do not complete their work promptly or thoroughly. The Government should recognise the political mileage in backing Mr Fraser's Bill. The Budget dug deep into motorists' pockets, which are far shallower than those of the public utilities. By giving the green light to Mr Fraser's scheme, the Government would have its iam today, and motorists would thank ministers for having no jam tomorrow.

TERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London Ei 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

in Budget lottery?

From Mr Adrian Cosker

Sir, Our high indirect taxes are not damaging just to the various indus-tries on which they most immediately impinge (leading article and letters, March 15). They reduce our overall competitiveness by raising costs generally and, as the Bank of England's targeted inflation measure counts changes in them (absurdly) as infla-tionary price rises, they have the effect of keeping interest rates, and thus the pound, higher than they would otherwise be, to the further detriment of

wealth creation within our economy. It has long been accepted that high rates of income tax both reduce incentives and are counter-productive in that they lead to a reduction in total revenues raised. It is time to recognise that excessively high indirect taxes can be just as harmful.

Yours etc, ADRIAN COSKER (Head of Economics), The Knights Templar School, Park Street, Baldock, Hertfordshire SG7 6DZ. March 15.

From Mr Peter Johnson

Sir, With all due respect to Mr David de Gale (letter, March 12), taxes on tobacco, alcohol and petrol are anything but "stealth" taxes.

The true stealth taxes are those which have reduced the yield on pension funds and invested savings, at a time when we are being urged to do more to provide for our own old age, and the windfall tax on utilities which, although popular, removed money which would otherwise have had to be used to reward shareholders (most of us these days in one form or another), pay off debt, reduce prices, or fo investment in expanded or upgraded

Yours sincerely, PETER JOHNSON, 20 Fairlands, East Preston. West Sussex BN16 1LH. March 12.

From Mr Paul McCallum

Sir. By increasing the winter fuel allowance for pensioners, the Chancelfor may well be responsible for saving someone's life this coming winter. This, coupled with increasing pensioners' Minimum Income Guarantee in highlights that the Government believes in improving the standard of living for pensioners after many years of Conservative neglect.

Yours faithfully PAUL McCALLUM. 32 High Street, Ruddington, Nottingham NGII 6EA. paul.mccallum@boots.co.uk

From Mr Nigel V. Hewitt

Sir, Is it right to say that this particular Budget did away with any recognition of marriage? I thought that it still provided less for two pensioners that are married than for two that are not.

Yours faithfully, NIGEL V. HEWITT, 36 Princes Terrace, Kemptown, Brighton, East Sussex BN2 5JS. nigelh@combro.co.uk March 13.

From Dr Susan E. Kay

Sir. We are that most undeserving category of humanity: a married couple with a mortgage, both self-employed, living in a remote enough rural spot to need a diesel Land Rover to guarantee year-round mobility, no dependent children (well actually. with a daughter on a six-year course at

The Budget has deprived us of a large slice of our income. Fair enough. What we resent is the impression given to the electorate that their gain came courtesy of one Gordon Brown a bachelor, living in the capital city, with free housing and transport, no children at university and employee status. We would like just a little acknowledgement of the contribution from the losers in this "everyone's a

Thank heaven for the Scottish elections. At least drowning our sorrows in Scotch won't cost more.

Yours faithfully. SUSAN E. KAY. Dissington Old Farm. Newcastle upon Tyne NEI8 0BW. March II.

Country skill

From Mr J. A. Cunningham

Sir, What a joy today it was driving on the northbound carriageway of the MI between junctions 8 and 9 to see several hundred yards of new and perfectly executed "stake and bound" fence. I do not know if this superb example of hedge-laying was pro-duced by the owner of the adjacent farm or by the highway authority.

The Countryside Agency and similar bodies really must encourage the extended use of this old English rural craft on the roadsides. Funds should be provided to train apprentice hedge-

J. A. CUNNINGHAM. Dorcas Farm, Stoke Hammond. Milton Keynes MKI7 0EA.

So who really won Pilate's reputation and early Christian 'spin-doctors' Historically, the incident is most improbable. Pilate had the might of

From Mr James Dowling

Sir, in reference to Mr P. M. Burrows's assertion that Pilate was fair-minded to Jesus (letter, March 12; see also letters, March 10 and 13). I can only agree.

The Jewish historian Josephus gives us a picture of Pilate as a harsh and brutal man, yet crucifizion was the Roman punishment for insurrection, and a certain reading of the Gospels — bearing in mind the triumphal entry into Jerusalem, the cleansing of the temple, the fact that the Gospels show Jesus as the centre of a mass movement with (Luke tells us) Zealots numbering among his disciples - would seem to suggest that that is exactly what Jesus, wittingly or otherwise, was involved in. Certainly it is possible to reconstruct a picture of Galilee which would suggest that Jesus's message was very divisive indeed.

I would suggest that it is likely that, within his remit, Pilate - the Roman official charged with keeping order in a province brimming with trouble was more than fair-minded in execut-ing a serious challenge to the peace of the province. Certainly the Roman procurators' treatment of other such figures (and Herod Antipas's stance towards John the Baptist) was no different.

In addition, the account of Jesus's trial given in the Gospels has to be suspect, given the apologetic stance the early Church was forced to take with respect to the Roman authorities.

JAMES DOWLING, Sidney Sussex College Cambridge CB2 3HU. iod20@hermes.cam.ac.uk

From Professor Hyam Maccoby

Sir. Geoffrey Kelly writes (March 13). The mob which pressed Pilate to crucify Jesus must have been huge. determined and menacing to have infimidated him, as recorded in the Gospels." He does not consider the alternative (favoured by many scholars) that the incident was invented by the Gospel writers to shift the blame for the crucifixion from the Romans to

the Roman Empire behind him and had no reason to fear a mob. Evidence from other sources shows him to have been ferociously decisive in dealing with any threat to Roman power. He needed no reminding that someone who claimed to be King of the Jews constituted such a threat. The authors of the Gospels were

concerned to dissociate their movement from Jewish rebelliousness, in the aftermath of the great Jewish rebellion against Rome (AD66-70). This accounts for the pronounced pro-Roman and anti-Jewish bias of these writings.

Yours faithfully, HYAM MACCOBY (Visiting Professor), Centre for Jewish Studies, University of Leeds, Leeds LS2 9JT. March 14.

From Mr Jonathan Went

Sir, Based upon the silence of Paul regarding Jesus, Mary and Pilate. and the unproven assumption that he wrote before the Gospels, David Lewis argues (letter, March 13) that the "Christian faith is founded in spiritual myth, not historical fact".

Some years ago you ran an article, "Eyewitness to Christ", and leading article (December 24, 1994) based on the work of Carsten Thiede, whose manuscript investigations of Matthew's Gospel led him to believe that it was earlier than most modern scholars thought.

Matthew is so full of Hebrew idiom that it makes little sense if dated after the Greek influx into the Church. The Reverend John Wenham (Redating Matthew, Mark and Luke, 1991) and Bishop John Robinson (Redating the New Testament, 1976) argued for dating Matthew around AD40, less than ten years after Jesus's death, and nearly ten years before Paul wrote. Paul wrote for the Church and did not repeat what the Gospel writers had already written.

But we need not take the word of modern academics alone, for the early Church in some 20 sources from the early 2nd century onwards auributes the first Gospel to Mauhew, written around AD42, between eight and 15 years after Christ's ascension, and thus before Paul.

Yours faithfully, JONATHAN WENT, 4 Crown Point Drive, Private Road, Bixley, Norwich, Norfolk NRI4 8RR. jonathanwent@teaching.telme.com

From Mr Peter Beale

Sir, David Lewis claims that "the earliest pre-Gospel Christian writings from St Paul and others . . . give no geographical or historical context to Jesus's life" and "never suggest that the earthly Jesus wrought miracles or gave any moral teachings"

He ought to turn to 1 Corinthians xv, in which Paul emphasises the historical importance of the greatest miracle of all, the resurrection of Christ. Or, to 1 Corinthians xi and Paul's account of the institution of the Last Supper, which gives the lie to what Mr Lewis calls "The fact that Paul and the other early Christians betray no knowledge of Jesus's Gospel adventures".

PETER BEALE, 47 High St, Bulford, Salisbury SP4 9DS. March 14.

From Mrs K. M. Jarvis

Sir, I question whether it is ethical to rewrite history in order to make it more acceptable to our generation. Jean Goldman suggests (letter, March 10) that Matthew xxvii, 25 -Then answered all the people and said. His blood be on us and on our children" - should be excised from the New Testament because it might be "offensive to Jews".

In Acts, Peter addresses the people of Jerusalem, repeating his theme: "That same Jesus whom ye have crucified ..." until they cried out "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" (Acts ii, 36 and 37).

Not, I submit, pretend that it never

Yours faithfully, KATHLEEN JARVIS, 28 Penn Grove Road. Hereford HRI 1BH.

Library dispute

From the Chief Executive of The British Library

Sir, Contrary to your reports (later editions, March 8 and March 9), working conditions in the British Library's new book stores at St Pancras have not been the central issue in the dispute between the Library and some of its staff who are members of the Public and Commercial Services Union.

For staff to compare the new book stores with coalmines is simply ludicrous. They are bright, spacious and airy. You mention "extremes of temperature", but the point about the stores is that the temperature does not fluctuate, in order that the Library's collections may be preserved in the best possible environment. The stores are a massive improvement on the conditions to which staff and books were subjected in our former home in

In finding volunteers to work in them. The issues which led to the industri-

al action are the introduction of a new grading structure and more flexible working arrangements, which are needed to make proper use of the new opportunities at St Pancras. The dispute has arisen from opposition by less than 5 per cent of the library's

I deeply regret that we have been forced to close the reading rooms and the inconvenience this will cause to our readers. We were unable to give adequate warning because the union breached the undertaking it had given to provide seven days' notice before commencing any industrial action.

Yours faithfully, BRIAN LANG. Chief Executive, The British Library, 96 Euston Road, NWI 2DB. March 9.

Verdict on Bahrain

From Mr Alan Brooke Sir, In his eulogy on the Emir of Bah-

rain (letter, March 12) the former British Ambassador, Sir Roger Tomkys, omits some important qualities of this "warm and sincere friend" of Britain. The US State Department describes Bahrain as "a hereditary emirate with few democratic institutions and no university, but that doesn't count). political parties" (Bahrain Country

Report on Human Rights Practices for 1998). It is a country where "the denial of the right of citizens to change their government; extrajudicial killings; torture; arbitrary arrest; incommunicado and prolonged detention; involuntary exile; infringement on citizens' privacy rights ... [and] limitations on or the denial of the right to a fair public trial" have led to the arrest and torture of hundreds of people.

Yours sincerely. A. BROOKE, 59 Magdale, Honley, Huddersfield HD7 2LX. March 12.

European jingoism

From Mr Jack Knight

Sir, Glenys Kinnock's letter on the US-EU trade dispute (March 10) is a fine example of European Jingoism. The idea of the EU being the protector of small countries flies in the face of

From Haiti to Herzegovina, the US has proved itself to be the only guarantor of small countries' rights. while the EU, reliable only in its feebleness and indecision, has often passively stood by or contributed to the general mess.

Yours faithfully. JACK KNIGHT, 43 Bathurst Mews, W2 2SB. March 10.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

Electronic voting From Mr Brian Shaw

Sir, I note with concern that London may be subject to the first experiment with electronic voting (report, March 12). In their efforts to simplify (and guide?) our choice, I hope the software writers will include the option for voters to register an abstention.

At present, we have to resort to the spoilt-paper approach. This is the only way that we can register the fact that we care deeply about the election (and do not wish to be classified as dead or indifferent by staying at home) but do not like any of the choices offered.

The closed-list system for European elections, for example, is an affront to democracy. I will be spoiling my paper on principle. The Lords lost their nerve in defending our democratic rights. It is now up to us.

Yours faithfully. **BRIAN SHAW** 19 Oak Grove, Poynton. Cheshire SK12 IAD. March 12.

Buses to the back

From Mr B. J. Goodchild

Sir, Mrs Diana Robinson (letter, March 8) sees the unfavourable location proposed for the Millennium Dome bus stops compared with the car drop-off point as indicative of the low regard in which public transport is still held in Britain.

She is right. In how many towns is the bus station (if any) as close to the shopping centre as is the multistorey car park? How many stores or leisure. attractions providing free parking offer their customers discounts on bus tickets as well?

For that matter, where is the prize draw or competition which promises its winner, say, five years' free bus or train travel instead of a new car?

Yours faithfully, BARRY GOODCHILD. 36 Hinton Road, Wallington, Surrey SM6 9AU.

Bloomsbury and we had no difficulty NSPCC advertising

From the General Secretary of GML and others

Sir, On Tuesday evening many people will be shocked and moved to see the new television advertisements from the NSPCC on ITV. We were shocked and moved, too, when we first saw them. But we cannot hide from the

horrific reality of child abuse.

Every week at least one child is killed in the UK through abuse or neglect; 35.000 children are officially considered to be suffering or likely to suffer significant harm; and there are at least 110,000 adults living in this country who have been convicted of sex offences against children.

These statistics are shocking enough, a national scandal, but the reality is much worse. Most cases of cruelty to children go unreported.

Like the NSPCC, we believe it is time for people - politicians, trade unionists, business people and all sections of society — to take action to end child cruelty. We must face up to our responsibility to children and make their care and protection every-

body's business. Cruelty to children is

unacceptable. It must stop. Yours faithfully, JOHN EDMONDS, General Secretary, GMB. ANDREW ROWE, Vice-chair, All Party Parliamentary Children's Group. DAVID SVENDSEN, Chairman, Microsoft UK Ltd. c/o National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, 42 Curtain Road, EC2A 3NH. March 14.

Awash with wine

From Mr F. C. Peacock

Sir, Is it an absolute journalistic requirement that food, however delectable, must be "washed down with" wine, however noble (leading article, "Battle of the dinner plate", March

Even specialist "foodie" writers almost invariably use this barbaric imagery.

Yours faithfully, F. C. PEACOCK, Kensa, Church Street. Newlyn, Penzance, Cornwall TRI8 SJY. March 12.

Ghost ships?

From Lieutenant-Colonel D. P. Earlam

Sir, I am worried. I note from your Court Page announcements (March 12) that the Chairman of British Invisibles attended dinner with the Navy Board on March II. Does this predict another, even more stringent, defence review?

lam, Sir, Your obedient servant, DAVID EARLAM, Sylvan House Worthgate Place. Canterbury, Kent CTI 2QX.

Birthdays

today



COURT CIRCULAR

Square, Auckland.

ST JAMES'S PALACE

lor. University of Surrey, this evening attended the Business

Advisory Group dinner at Brook's

Royal engagements

The Queen will bold an investiture at Buckingham Palace at 11.00. Prince Edward, patron, London Mozart Players, will strend a concert and dinner at St James's Palace at 7.00 to mark the orchestra's 50th anniversary.

The Duke of Gloucester will visit

the Royal Mint, Liantrisant, Mid Glamorgan at 11.00; and, as

Grand Prior, Order of St John, accompanied by the Duchess of

Gloucester, Commandant-in-Chief, St John Ambulance Wales,

will visit Tredegar House, Gwent, at 12.45. The Duke and Duchess of

Gloucester will visit Clytha Prima-

ry School, Gwent, at 1.30; and a celebration service for the installa-

Cathedral, Gwent, at 2.40.

Club, St James Street, London.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE March 15: The Duke of Edinburgh this morning departed RAF Northolt for Nice Airport, France and later arrived in Monaco. Brigadier Miles Hunt-Davis is in attendance.

The Duke of Edinburgh today attended a Lunch with His Serene Highess The Sovereign Prince of Monaco at the Palace of Monaco. His Royal Highness, Founder

Trustees of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award International Association, this evening attended a Reception at The Casino and a Dinner at the Hotel de Paris.

ST JAMES'S PALACE March 15. The Prince of Wales this morning visited the Falkland Islands Community School.

His Royal Highness later visited the Falklands Islands Agricultural Centre and then toured the Fishertes Protection Vessel Dorada be-fore attending a luncheon at the Stanley Seaman's Centre. This afternoon His Royal High-

ness visited Mount Longdon, where he laid wreaths at the 3rd Battalion The Paracitute Regiment The Prince of Wales afterwards visited Fitzroy Cove where he laid

wreaths at the memorials to the Weish Guards and RFAs, Sir Tristram and Sir Galahad. His Royal Highness later visited HMS Dumbarton Castle. Subsequently His Royal Highness visited RAF Mount Pleasant where he toured the resident military units and met personnel and their

The Prince of Wales this evening departed by air for the United

BUCKINGHAM PALACE March 15: The Duke of York, Patron, The London Contempo-rary Dance Trust, attended a dinner at The Place, London WCL **BUCKINGHAM PALACE** March 15: The Princess Royal today carried out the following engage-ments in Auckland, New Zealand.

923, Aberdeen, 1935; Sir Austen

The American Military Academy



Michael Bailey and John Glithero on their "archaeological exploration" of the workings of Stephenson's Rocket

Stephenson's Rocket 'excavated'

BY PAUL WILKINSON NORTH WEST CORRESPONDENT

INDUSTRIAL archaeologists are conducting a three-month "dig" on one of the earliest steam locomotives. George Stephenson's Rocket, 170 years old this year, is being dismantled and rebuilt by

Michael Bailey and John Glithero, experts in railway engineering, to see how the technology of the period evolved.

"Things were developing then as fast as computer technology does today when things have barely arrived in the shops and they are already old hat," Mr Bailey said. "The Rocket was already obsolete by the time it went into service in September 1830 on the Liverpool and

Manchester Railway.
"It had been built just II months earlier for the Rainhill trials to see which locomotive should operate the line but design had already moved on by the time it came into use. Locomotives being built by then were already far superior in power and efficiency. But the line's

owners had spent £500 on the locomotive and they wanted to get the benefit of their investment, so it went through a series of refits to keep it up to scratch. It will be those things that we will be looking at, to see how the technology evolved. "Sadly for the Rocket it did not last long. In early 1837 it was sold off to the

Earl of Carlisle to work in his collieries in Cumberland and it was retired into near-oblivion in 1840."

Rocket is famous as being involved in the first fatal railway accident when, on the opening day of the Liverpool and Manchester Railway, it ran over and killed William Huskisson, MP, a promoter of the line and a former President of the Board of Trade. It is less well known for also being

involved five weeks later in the first recorded death of a trainspotter: Henry Hunter, a Manchester publican who had become fascinated with steam power. He had hitched a ride and was thrown off when a tender axle broke. Mr Bailey said: "The company's engineers took

PERSONAL COLUMN

advantage of the Rocker's return for repairs to make improvements to the engine little more than a month after it had entered service. That indicates how

fast things were moving.

"We will be studying how things were put together and why they changed them. We hope to publish all our findings later this year." A special camera will let them safely explore the train's inner workings. Rocket, on display at the National Railway Museum, in York, is a mere shadow of Stephenson's creation. Refits to the smokebox and valves altered the original shape significantly and much of its copper and brasswork was stripped for scrap when it was retired in 1840. A half-hearted attempt to restore it for the 1851 Great Exhibition petered out when an intact rival was found and in 1862 if was rescued from obscurity by the

predecessor of the Science Museum.

Mr Bailey said: "It would be an interesting project to see it restored to its original condition but that it not what we

Meeting Royal Institute of Internation

(Academic).

Upper School Scholumbias
Clara Cheong (Academic), Yvetic Chan,
(Academic), Marion Clement (Academic),
Henna Georgindis (Academic), Clementine
Harvey Academic), Victoria Law (Academic),
Academic), Victoria Law (Academic),
(Academic), Natulic Meastwichtwij (Academic),
(Academic), Natulic Meastwichtwij (Academic),
Marion Motorey (Ard, Oranon Narapruetl Academic), Natuli Parischpalcii (Ard
Abignii Somut (Academic), Carry Wofenio

1999 Scholarships The following awards have been

made:
Schools S-D.G. Liddle (Orley Farm):
L. Wigley (Mairlwell Hall): A.G.E. Burges
(Lockers Park): A.S. Sharp (Milliourne
Lodge): T.J.B. Park (Veyford School).
Pohilbilious: M.J.I. Symes-Thompson (Edge
Grove): L. Oldfield (Caldicott): A. Rashid
(Pupplewick): P.H. Patel (Northwood: Prep.
School).

Art Scholambier D.E.E. Pinke (The Dringon). Art Scholambier T.F.W. Wright (Orley Parm): T. Oweo-Edmunds (Surleigh School).

lone N.G.C. Arranon (Orley

Harrow School

Foreign Minister, was the speaker at a meeting of the Royal Institute of International Affairs beld yesterday at Chatham House.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr A.J. Barron and Miss E.S. Hallergard Adam, son of Derek and Roseman Barron, and Susanne, daughter of Sandra and Krister Hallergard, announce their engagement.

Mr R.A. Collins and Miss A.R. Royali The engagement is announced between Richard, son of Mr and Mrs Paul Collins, of Church Farm, Lilbourne, Warwickshire, and Anna, daughter of District Judge and Mrs Martyn Royall, of Scarning, Norfolk.

Mr C.R. Mason Hornby Mr C.K. Massartus and Miss C.J. Reid
The engagement is announced between Christopher, younger son of the late Mr Anthony Masonor the late Mr Anthony Mason-Hornby, and of Mrs Mason-Hornby, of Dalton Hall, West-morland, and Cressida, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Reid, of Maplesden, East Sussex.

Mr R.D.C. Thurner and Miss S. Evans and Miss S. Evans
The engagement is announced between Robert, som of Mr Michael Thurner and Mrs Christine Thurner, of Littleton, Surrey, and Sian, daughter of Mr and Mrs David Evans, of Southwell, Nottinghamshire.

Marriage Mr A.J. Bonner and Mrs A.M.J. Barry

The marriage took place quietly at St Brigid's Church, Kilbride, Co Wicklow, between Mr Alan Bonner, of Widdington, Essex, and Mr. Alan Bonner, of Widdington, Essex, and Mr. Alan Bonner, of Widdington, Essex, and Mr. Alan Bonner, and Mr. Al Mrs Aveen Barry, of Dublin and

Lecture

The Royal Academy of Engineering The Royal Academy of Engineering Sir David Davies, CBE, FEng. FRS, President of The Royal Academy of Engineering, presided at the 1999 Lloyd's Register Lecture held last night at 1 Great George (Street, London, SWI. The guest speaker was Mr William O'Neil, CM. FEng. Secretary-General, International Maritime Organization of the United Nations, who tion of the United Nations, who spoke on Safety at Sea - Engineering Challenges.

Symposium

Wilson Campbell Memorial A symposium to mark the end of the series of annual lectures in nemory of Wilson Campbell was held yestertlay at Newcastle upon Tyne University. Mr John Ham-mill, chairman of the memorial lectures committee, presided. Mr Roger Boissier, Professor Paul fessor John Chesshire, Mr John Gaskell and Mr Madcohn Kennedy also spoke.

Luncheon

Rotary Club of London Mr John Davey was the speaker at s luncheon of the Rotary Club of London held yesterday at the Portman Hotel, Mr John Buchanan, president, was in the chair.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Pieter Hooft, poet, Amsterdam, 1581; Caroline Herschel, astronomer, Hanover, Germany 1750: James Madison, 4th American President 1809-17, Port Conway, Virginia, 1751; George Ohm, hysicist, Erlanger, Germany, 1787. DEATHS: Alexander III, King of Scotland 1249-86, Burntisland, Pyfe, 1286: Giovanni Pergolesi, composer, Pozzuoli, Italy, 1736; Jean Baptiste Rousseau, poet, Brussels, 1741; Robert Surtees, novelist, Brighton, 1864; Aubrey Beardsley, illustrator, Menton, 1898; John James Macleod, physiologist, pioneer of insulin, Nobel laureate

Chamberlain, Foreign Secretary 1924-29, Nobel peace laureate, 1925, London, 1937; Selma Lager-lof, novelist, Nobel laureate 1909, Marbacka, Sweden, 1940; William Henry Beveridge, Baron Beveridge, pioneer of social security, Oxford, 1963.

established at West Point, 1802. The first liquid-propelled rocket was launched by Dr Robert Goddard, an American physicist, 1926.

Hitler renounced Treaty of Versailles and introduced conscription, 1935. The Queen opened the new London Bridge, 1973.

Church news

The Rev Michael St John-Chan-

nell, Vicar, Staines St Mary and St

The Rev Clive Styles, Team Vicar, Wednesfield St Augustine and St Chad (Lichfield): to be Rector, Ashwellthorpe, Forncett, Fundenhall, Hapton, Tacolneston and Mensionshees (Mensioth)

chester): has been appointed Vicar, same benefice. The Rev Philip Tait, Priest-in-Charge, Woodhorn w. Newbiggin-

by-the-Sea (Newcastle): has been appointed Chaplain, HMP Wolds (York).

The Rev John Williams, Curate,

IN MEMORIAM -

and you give me all I need; my future is in your hands. Psake 16.5 (GNB).

BMDS: 0171 680 6880

PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

ARMOLD - On March 13th in Oxford, to Jacqui and David, a daughter, Darcey

BEAUDUM - On March 0th at The Portland Hospital, to Natasia (Degricch) and Stophane, a daughter, Tatiana, a sister for BEVACQUA - On March 10th at The Portland Hospital, to Amina and Richard, a

BROUGHTON - To Nicola

HOUGHTON - To Nicola (née Purdon) and Michael, a son, Ewan Rosa, in London on March 11th 1999, Deepset heartfalt thanks to the doctors, midwivez, nurses and all staff at King's College Hountiel.

BROWN - On March 4th to Anna (née Harris) and Richard, a daughter, Rossmary Anne, a sister for George, Eleanor and

BUBBERS - To Sharon (née White) and John, a delightful son, Oliver Daniel, born 27th January 1999. A brother for James

DAUGAARD - On Merch 14th at The Portland Hospital, to Katria and Lars, a son, Christian Xavier, a brother for Lars Phillip.

DEXON - On March 5th, to Tessa (não Robertson) and Adrian, a son, James Robert, a brother for Edward and Hugh.

DRYER - On March 10th 1999 at The Portland Hospital, to Lucy (née Pincus) and Darren, a son, Charles FRANKS - On March 13th to Wills (noe Balfour) and George, a son, Arthur.

FRASER - On 13th March to James and Stephanie (nee Struthers), a daughter, Iona Elizabeth.

1999 in Cranleigh, to Annell (née Wilkow) and Andy, a daughter, Katina Rhizanon Essaley, a siste

Rhiannon Emmley, a sister for Diccon and Danies.

GARDNER - On March 11th, to Felicity (min Newbold) and Adrian, a son, George Richard James, a brother for Camilla, Antonia and

GOVETT - On March 11th at The Portland Hospital Jennifer and David, a daughter, Natasha. BAKER WILBRAHAM - OIL HAVMARD - On 9th March. to Sue (née Moss) and Edmund, I son, William Edwin John. JAMES - On March 13th

12th March 1999 peacefully at home Joyce Katharine Baker Wilbraham MBE, much

on March 12th, Ratired
National Park Officer for
the Peak District National
Park Private cremetion.
Donations if desired to
The Parkingon's Disease
Society Rath Branch of The Parkinson's Disease Society, Bath Branch, c/e 74 Pickwick Road, Corsham, SN13 9DB, tel: (01249) 715860. 1990 peacefully at Bolton Hospica, Bernard aged 71 years, loving father of Sarah. All enquires to Co-operative Funeral Service Bolton, tai 01204 307151.

DEATHS

BATES - His Honour Stewart

BATES - His Honour Stewart
Taverner Hates Q.C.
peacefully on March 13th
1999 after years of Illness
borne with courage and
humour aged 72.
Cherished companion for
fifty years of Anne,
beloved of his children
Charlotte, Juliet, Alestair,
Arabella, Robecca and
Barnaby, and his eight

Arabella, Rebecca and Barnaby, and his eight grandchildren. Funeral Service at St. John's, Horsington on Friday, 19th March at 3.30 pm followed by private interment. Family flowers only, but donations in lieu to Horsington Parish Church Restoration Fund or Serve the Children (Sherborne Branch) e/o Mr Harold Miles, Funeral Director, Winton Cottage, South Cadbury, Souterset (tel: 01963 440367). Memorial Service in London to be announced.

source and the second of the s

Unkfield (01825) 763 763.
BREWER - Vivien Jayne, aged
56. Peacefully at the Marie
Curie Hospice, Catarham,
on the afternoon of the
12th March, Much leved
wife of Marc and mother
of Charles and Catherine.
She will be deeply missed.
Funeral service to be held
at the Surrey and Sussex
Crematorium, Balcombe
Road, Crawiey, at 2.30m
on Friday 19th March,
Pamily Howers only
please, donations to the
Marie Curie Hospice or
R.N.L.L. c/o Stomensu
Funeral Service, Doran
Court, Reignte Road,
Redhill, Surrey, RH 6AZ.

SROWNING - Herbert Anneticy (Bertie) passes away unconsectedly but

Annealey (Bertie) passed away unsepactedly but pescafully on March 9th. He will be sadly missed by his wife June, his daughters Gay and Melita and his many dear friends. BURRELL - Theodore Stanley Burrell OBE, hasband of Doven and father of Kate, on March 12th. Retired

BIRTHS RASINSKI - On 11th March in Warsaw, to Annie (née Molesworth-St.Aubyn) and Peter, a son, Adam Tadeum Anthony.

MASTRANGELO - On March 12th at The Portland Hospital, to Sandra and Raiph, a son, Dominic

MATARLE - On March 10th at The Portland Hospital, to Vancosa (née Macdonald-Smith) and Stephen, a daughter, Imogen, a sister for Natasha and Sam.

STALKER - On 8th March 1999 at the Matilda Hospital in Hong Kong to Patry (nose Watters) and Authony, a son, Toby Patrick Anthony, a brother for Sophie and Sasha.

Vickers - On March 12th 1989 to Hampshire, to Elizabeth (née Vickers) and Hugo, a son, Arthur Hugo Blyth.

DEATHS

ARCHER - General Sir John in his 76th year suddenly on Friday 12th March 1999. Dearly loved husband of Marie for 48 years, an inspiration to his two soms Jerumy and Simon, a tender father-in-law to Amanda and Nicki and an adorting grandfather to Sebastian. Charlotte and Georgina. He will be sorely missed both by the family and his many friends. The funeral will take place at 10.45 am on Friday 19th March at All Sainty, Branksome Park, Poole and will be followed by a private committal. Any donations would be welcomed by dither two of his treasured projects. The Military Museum of Devon & Dorchester DT1 1EN (01305 284 066) or The Gurkha Welfare Trust, 88 Baker Street, London Will 2AE (0171 707 1925). There will be a memorial service later.

ARMSTRONG - Bamburgh.
The Rt Hon Lady Maria
Theresa passed away
peacefully at The Royal
Free Hospital, Hampsteet
London on 15th March
1999. Private creemtion.
Memorial details later.

loved sont and great-sont, in her 97th year. Funeral Monday 22nd March 12 Monday 22nd March 12 noon at Christ Church, Cheises, followed by private cremation, Family flowers only but donations if desired to REFRESH, St

The Rev Doreen Saxon, NSM. Tettenhall Wood Christ Church

(Lichfield): to be NSM with special responsibility for Tettenhall Wood. Castleforth The Good Shepherd

Peter (London): to be Vicar Cirencester St John the Baptist

and Wreningham (Norwich). The Rev Michael Taylor, Priestin-Charge, Jersey St Andrew (Win-

GRAVEL - David William on Thursday 11th March 1999, much loved husband of Cecil and father of James.

The Rev Barbara Way, Director

of Ministry and Training (Canter-bury): has been appointed Local

Ministry Adviser (same diocese). The Rev Dr Samuel Wells Priest-in-Charge, Earlham St Eliza-beth (Norwich): to be also Rural Dean of Norwich South (same diocesel.

Potters Bar (St Albans): has been appointed Curate, Bishop's Stortford St Michael (same diocese).

TRADE; 0171 481 1982

FAX: 0171 481 9313

PRIVATE CRACKHELL - In over loving memory of Freda, dearly beloved first wife of Desmond and mother of Valorie, Vivicane, Roger and Victor, who pessed valorie, Vivionne, Roger and Victor, who passed away on March 16th 1980, Our brave, brave "wee one" now safe in the arms of God.

Sall'H - Betty J, (née Robertson), and Rosamund. Always runembered, especially today. Ian and the family.

WARD-THOMAS - On 16th March 1993, our dearly beloved daughter Kitty, always in our bearts. Ma and Pa.

SERVICES

Agency. If you are plotte or profer a plotte pertant ring 0.1852 710/907 WANTED

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ENTERTAINMENT.

POLAND: HABRISON - Capt F.V. Harrhon R.N. (retd). A Thankagiving Service will take place at St. Mary's, Bourne Street, SW1, on May 11th at 12 noon.

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CAYZER - On 18th March peacefully at home in Palm Beach, Florida, Major Harcid Stanley Cayzer 11th Hussars (P.A.O.) in the loving care of Beatrice his devoted wife for 28 years, Funeral March 20th 11 am St Edward's Church, Palm Beach. Cecil and father of James. Oliver, Eleanor and Humphrey, brother to Primrose Wilson and grandfather of 14. Private cremation followed by Service of Thanksgiving at St Marys, Leigh, Kent at 2.30pm on Monday 22nd Marth. No flowers. Donations if wished to The Stroke Association. Enguirles, Francis Appeal (cheques payable to Frensham PCC) c/o

COOK - On March 14th peacefully in Newland House Residential Home, Witney, Elsie Ida May in her 101st year, formerty of Pinmstend, London SE 18. Annt of Joan Darlow of East Ead, North Leigh, Oxon, Deeply loved by her family and trassured by her friends. All enquiries to E Taylor and Son F/D tel 01933 342421.

DARLING - on Thursday 11th
March 1999 Toronce of
Cuckfield, West Sussex.
Very dearly loved husband
of Tippy and proud and
loving father of Mark.
Rory and Giles. Service of
thunkegiving on Friday
19th March at Holy Trinity
Church, Cuckfield at 12
noon. Please on flowers
but if you wish donations
psyable to RNLI c/o F & S
Gallagher, Fraser House,
Triangle Road, Haywards
Heath, West Somer RH16
4HW. Tel 01444 451168.

DARLOW - See Cook.

DORGER - Joseph aged 88 on March 14th, widower of Rende, and much loyed father of Caroline Clegg and Pamela Dixon, and grandfather of Daniel, Lionel, Harrist and Jack, Funeral at Putney Vale Crematorium on Monday 22nd March at 12.30pm. No Rowers, but donations if desired, to Marie Curie Cancer Care 17 Grosvenor Crecont, London SWIX 7XZ.

DÖRY de JOBAHÁZA – Augusta on March 11th in London egad 90, dearly loved mother of Elizabeth ioved mother of Elizabeth Temple-Richards, grandmother of Nicholes and Alexandra and great-grandmother of Herry and Alice, William, Augusta and Charlotte, Family funeral.

PLETCHER - Namey Christine (Christine Glanville) on 1st March after a short illness. Creatly missed by her family and friends. Cremation at Chiltern's Cremation at Chiltern's Crematorium, Amerakam on Friday 19th March at 11.30 am. Family Bowers only planes.

Enquiries, Francis Chappell and Sons, 27 London Road, Sevenosi 01732 450203.

HANDS - On March 11th
1939 very suddenly in
hospital Jureny Gyles
Hangarve agod 47 years.
Dearly beloved husband
of Margaret, loving son of
Daphne and Hangarve
Hands. Funeral Service at
St. Margareth Church Handa. Funeral Service at St Margarch Church, Hardley, Norfolk on Wednesday 17th March 1999 at 1 pm. Flowers or donations if desired for Hardley Church Restoration Fund and cheques made payable to Hardley C.C. C. may be sent to John Brown Funeral Services, 102 North Walsham Roed, Norwich, Norfolk NES 700 please.

ARDING - George William, Late of the Parachute late of the Parachute
Regiment Cyprus and
Suez, died after a short
illness on 13th March.
Finantal at Salvation Army
Hall, Willingham,
Cambridgeshire at 12 noos
on Friday 19th March.

HARRES - Lieut. General Sir Inn (Tommy) RBE, CBE, CB, DSO, died in his 83th year on March 12th after a short illness borne as be had lived quietly and with courage; beloved bushand of Anne-Marie, tather of Cecil (decessed) and Armer and grandfather of Georgina, Catherine, Julian and Christien. Funeral service at the Cashel, Co. Tipperary Church of Irvisand Cathedral at 11.30am on Tuesday, the 18th March. No flowers please, but donastions to the Royal

HAY - Elizabeth (née Childe) widow of Alan. Died peacefully on 12th March.

HEL. - Geoffrey Esmond Banedict at home on 13th March 1999 aged 75. Mach loved husband of Marjorie and father of Robert, Virginia and Justin. Regulator Mass of The Make Virginia and Justin.
Requiem Mass at The Holy
Redeemer, Upper Church
Road, Hollington, St
Leonards on Sea at moon
on Friday 19th March.
Committal at Hastings
Cramaterium, The Ridge,
at a later date.

HILLS - Ivan Edward aged
34, on 12th March, Loving
and dearly loved husband
of Mary, much loved
father of Tom and Lucy
and grandfather of Jon
and Jules, Private
cremation followed by a
Service at St Mary's
Church, Frensham at 2.30
pm on Tuesday 23rd
March, Pamily Howers
only, Donations if desired
to Frensham and
Dockenfield Churches
Appeal (chaques payable

Thorne-Leggett, Petersfield Road, Whitehill, Bordon, Hampshira GUSS 9AR. HOPE-Sir Peter KCMG.,
TD. died peacefully at
King Edward VII Hospital
on 12th March 1999 aged
80 years. Husband of
Hazol, father of Jeremy.
Adrian and (late) Richard.
Private funeral to take
place at Midharet R.C.
Church on Thursday 18th
March at 11.30am followed
by burial in Midhurst
(private family service at
graveside). Family flowers
only but donations if
desired to British
Association Of The
Sovereign Military Order
of Maits (BASMOM) or the
Hospital of St John & St
Elizabeth, c/o L.F. Lintott
and Son, North Street,
Midharet GU29 9DG.
01720 813204.

HURITLEY - Iohn Francis
Burra aged 91 on 11th
March 1999. Dearly loved
by Rosensary and his
family. Funeral at St
Mary's Church, Boxwell on
Friday 19th March at
2.30pm. No flowers.
Donations if deatred to
Boxwell Church
Charitable Trust c/o
Cowley & Son Ltd,

Cowley & Son Ltd., Triangle House, 62 Victoris Road, Cirencester Glos GL7 1ES, Telephone

Kineseth - Robert Adam
(Bob) - on March 13th 1999
peacefully at Wolfston
Manor, Cherminster.
Brother of Pamels and
Colin, foulty renembered
husband of Mary and
father of Edizabeth and
Robin. Private cremation. No flowers please, but donations to the Royal Ulster Rifles Benevoluni Fund, 6 Waring Street, Baifast, Details of Mamorial service to be

KENT - Phoebe Moffet, aged 25, suddenly on 13th March in Melbourne, heloved and beautiful daughter of Prue Byng. A service of thealagiving to be apparented. be announced later.

LEBUS - Christina, aged 44, adored wife of Tun and mother of David, died peacefully at home on 13th March after an indoesluble struggle against cancer. Family funeral to be followed in April by a Service of Thankagiving. No flowers but denations, if wished, to Wellbeing, 27 Sussex. Place. Reports Park.

LYAUL GRANT - On 12th
March, Douglas Gavin
Lyall Grant, loved father
of Nicholas and Flona,
dear brother of Duphne,
Jane and Susan, Grateful
thanks to the wonderful
staff of the Royal British
Legion Home, Mais House,
Beabill for their
friendship and care.

MARSHAM - Lady Anne Rhoda, aged 36 years, peacefully in Norfolk on March 13th 1999, sister of the Earl of Romney. Funeral at St Marys Church, Roughau on Wednesday March 17th at

2.30pm. No letters please.

2.30pm. No letters please.

2.30pm. No letters please.

2.30pm. No letters please.

2.30pm. No letters please no letters please no letters please no letters please.

2.30pm. No letters please.

2.30pm. Rich loved by her four some and extended family. Cremation on Priday 15th March at 12.40pm. at Carliale Crematorium. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to The Parkinson's Disease Society c/o Jack. Disease Society c/o Jack Robinson Undertaker, 27 High Brightm, Cockermouth, Cumbria CA13 OTE.

PHILIPS - Robert John (Bob)
Chartered Architect, aged
65. Lowing husband of
Shirley and much loved
father and friend of Merk,
Christine, Alison and Izn.
Puneral at Camlord
Cremetorium, Westburyon-Trym, Bristol on March,
17th at 1.20 pm. All friends
welcoma.

(01225) 841711.

RECHE-EVANS - Herbert of St.
Margarets died Merch 12th
aged 32 peacefully after a
short illness. Riche will be
greatly missed by his
family and many friends.
No services will be held.
Dometions to Amnesty
International.

MGBY - Sir Hugh John Macbeth percetidly on Sunday March 14th. Much loved father of Anthony, Hugh, Jamie and Stave and devoted grandfather. All enquiries to Hooley Watson and Buckley (01625) 422734.

SEAGRAM - Shelia Stephanie Congreve. Pescafully et Safishury on 13th March, 1990 aged 92 years. Widow of Top Ogle Seagram, formetly of Wylys. Funeral Service on Friday 19th March at 10.20am at Salisbury Cremscorium. No flowers but donetions direct to a charity of choice for animals. Enquiries to LN. Newman-Ltd., 01722 413136.

SET 10M - March 12th at St.
Johns Hospice, Leuraster,
Charlotte Leila aged 55
years of Cumbrie, dourly
loved wife of Michael and
mother of Philip, Patrick
and Christopher, Funeral
service and interment at
Holy Trinity Church,
Winster on Fidday 19th
March at 2.00pm. Family
flowers only and

March at Zubpin. Family flowers only and denstions if so desired to St Johns Hospice or Cancer Research c/o A. G. Clarke, The Ashes, Cartnel Fell, Grange-on-Sends, LA11 6NU. Tel 015395 31431.

SORBY - (Née Mallet) Kata
- Peacafully at home in
Argentina, on 13th March.
Widow of Major Robert
Souty MRE formerly of
the Indian Cavairy.
Adared mother of Marche,
Smoky, Roberta, Mark and
grandmother of Victoria
and Robert. Cremation
service in Nouquen.
Memorial service in
England to be announced
in this column. Donations
if desired to The
Schizophrenia Association
of Great Britain,
International

or Great Strong, International Schizophrenia Centre, Bryn Hyfryd, The Crescent, Benger, Gwynedd LL57 2AG.

POTTER - Barbara Purcall or March 10th 1999, much loved mother and grandmother. Enquiries to Bowley Funeral Service (01273) 841711.

WARD - Berths Elimbeth aged 33 years in hospital in Norfolk, hormerly of Chalfout St Glies, Buckinghamshire. Wils of the late Arthur Harry, mother of Anne (dec'd) grandmother of Andrew, Christopher, Clenn and Jesen.

WHEATLEY PROCE—Thomas.
Peacefully on March 14th
1999 in his 99th year.
Beloved husband of the
late Con, dearly loved
father of Michael, Ruth
and John, dear father-inlaw of Diana, Michael and
Joan and proud
grandfather to his nine
grandchildren and
eighteen greatgrandchildren. Private
cremation. Thunkagiving
Savvice at St Goorge's,
Prochute, Marthorough,
Wittshire at 12.30pm on
Priday the 19th of March.
Gifts in his memory to the
Church Mission Society.

WHITMARSH – John
Marshall of Richards
Castle, near Ludlow. On
8th March peacefully in
his 80th year. Widower of
Betty, much loved father,
father-in-law, grandinther
and great-grandisther. and great-grandfather. Donations to A. Hoskins & Son, (01584) 872048.

WOODROW - Jocelyn pessed away on 10th March 1993 after a bravely fought illness. She will be sedly missed by her loving father Arthur, devoted sons James and William and much loved granddaughters Rebecca and Lucy, family sud friends. The funeral service will take piace at Pullams 2t Mary Church on Thunday 18th March at 12 noon, followed by cremation at St Faths Crematorium at 1.30pm. All friends are invited to either or both services. Flowers or donations if desired for Leukasmia Research Pund, q's Rackhams Puneral Service, Stanley Road, Dies. Morfolk, 1922 1814. STANSURY - Philip, adored father of Marlene, Penny and Anthony, passed away peacefully at home on. Sunday March 14th He will be greatly missed by his sister Diane, desighterin-law Brian and Bruce and by all his grandehildren, and greet-grandehildren, and greet-grandehildren. The funeral will take place today, Tuesday March 16th 4 pm at Golders Green Crematerium, Hoop Lane.

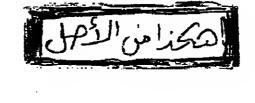
STEMART - Phylits Mary take Cave). At Peobles on 12th March 1999, Phylifs, widow of John Philip Stewart, MD, FRCSE (Ed). Requiem Mass at St Joseph's R.C. Church, Rosetta Road, Peobles at 10.30cm on Friday 19th March followed by private cremation, No flowers.

VETCH - James Wallson - desrly beloved husband of Patricia and father of Alister and John, grundfather of Jession and Hamish. Peacefully at home on 13th March. Funeral service Friday, 19th March, 11.30 am at Dune Tew Church.
Enquiries to J&M Humphris Funeral
Directors (01285) 265424.

Service, Stanley Road, Dies, Norfolk, IP22 3BN. YOUK. - Christopher to his 90th year. Loving husband of Pauline and much loved father of Edward. Carolina, Louise and Mary, grandfather and great-grandfather. Private family inneral. Magnerial service in All Saints Church, Long Margton at 2.00pm. Fridsy 19th March. No Howert piesse.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

ENGLAND . . + MATCH TICKET C199 ALL INCLUSIVE: TEL: 0181 970 2608 TEL: 0181 970 2610



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Garson Kanin, playwright and Hollywood director and screenwriter, died on March 13 aged 86. He was born on November 24, 1912.

prolific writer and director who was best known for Born Yesterday, Garsoo Kanin worked his way up through showbusiness, and in fifty years saw almost every aspect, from touring theatre to Hollywood stardom. He did everything from playing a comedy stooge to writing a new English bbretto for Die Fledermaus, and was involved with several Oscar-winning films. As secretary of the Directors Guild during the 1950s, he also stood up for some in the industry against the bullying tactics of Senator McCarthy.

By his own account, he kept trying to write serious drama but found that it turned out funry. At worst this could mean merely facetions, and Kanin had his share of withering reviews, including one that spoke of sitting in a state of "numbed horror" through a piece of "theatrical mal-

practice". In all he wrote 32 plays, worked on 29 films and wrote 14 books, including memoirs of friends such as Somerset Maugham. He was a prolific short-story writer, his name cropping up everywhere from Good Housekeeping to Playboy, and some of his tales were later televised. He said that he became ill if he was deprived of work for three days.

Garson Kanin was virtually born into the cinema, but his family was only on the bottom rung: his father ran a New York picture house. Talent and application were needed to propel him up the ladder. and Kanin found that entertainment could be a bitchy business, but he never lost his boyish love of a good storyline and a good show. He left school at 16 during

the Depression and set out to be a musician. Working as a stock boy and messenger during the day, he played clarinet and honky-tonk saxophone at night. Briefly, he led his own band, Garson Kay and the Red Peppers, but he was always ambitious to extend his range and repertoire. In the old-fashioned way of the American immigrant family, he wanted to bener himself. For two years he was a keen

student at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts, and this led to his first small part. as Tommy Deal in the play Little Or Boy in 1933. Next he heard about auditions for a part paying \$60 a week in Ladies' Money, by the well established actor, writer, director and producer George Abbott. The part of Red required red hair, which Kanin didn't have - but he did have a friend prepared to lend him the money to have his dyed. Abbott took to him, and employed him as an assistant, which meant directing travelling companies in shows such as Three Men on a Horse and Boy Meets Girl. He also had an opportunity to direct

GARSON KANIN





Garson Kanin, with Spencer Tracy and Katharine Hepburn appearing together for the first time in Woman of the Year

on Broadway - and fluffed it. But when still only 23. Kanin was summoned to Hollywood by Sam Goldwyn, who had heard that he was a very clever genius" and took him on without quite saying what for. One of Kanin's tasks was to come up with Goldwynisms for the studio's press office, such as "In two words, impossible". He later revealed that the quip department was the true source of the lines "a verbal contract is not worth the paper it is written on," and "anyone who sees a psychia-trist ought to have his head examined". Decades later Kanin further elaborated the Goldwyn legend, and others, in books and a television

wasted material, even if it was sometimes spun from secondhand threads.

Running errands on the set of Hitch Your Wagon did not quash the young Kanin's enthusiasm to direct. He studied every aspect of the movies, analysing them for strengths and techniques, and he venerated the men who made them.
"I'd rather be Frank Capra
than God," he said. "If there is
a Frank Capra."
He also became a lifelong

friend of Thornton Wilder, who at first was flabbergasted by his ignorance and urged him to meel as many famous people as possible and write down what they said. Later it was Wilder who encouraged Kanin to write for the stage.

Frustrated at not having a proper job, Kanin left Goldwyn - making sure to remain on good terms - and moved to RKO Radio, where his first directing assignment was A Man to Remember (1938). In the same year he won plaudits for The Great Man Votes,

with John Barrymore. The films he made before America entered the war were remarkable for famous pairings. Bachelor Mother in 1939 boasted both David Niven and Ginger Rogers (whom Kanin directed again in 1941 in Tom, Dick and Harry), and My Favorite Wife in 1940 starred Cary Grant and Irene Dunne. That year's They Knew What They Wanted brought together Carole Lombard and the notoriously difficult Charles Laughton - to critical ac-

Kanin himself was half of a fruitful if sparring partnership, for five of his scripts were written in collaboration with his wife of 43 years, the actress Ruth Gordon, whom he married in 1942.

That was the year he helped to write Woman of the Year, though the officially credited writers - who took an Oscar were his brother Michael Kanin and Ring Lardner Jr. A gentle comedy about a sports columnist who struggles to keep up with his politically ambitious wife, the film was notable for bringing together Spencer Tracy and Katharine Hepburn, who were to co-star

in a number of films in the 1940s and 1950s (and were later the subject of an imperceptive memoir by Kanin). Perhaps the best of these films was Adam's Rib (1949), written by Kanin and his wife, who were nominated for an Oscar.

During the war Kanin served as an officer in a US. Army film unit, beginning with training films in New Jersey. He was then posted to London to make a joint produc-tion with the British about the Allied invasion of Europe, from D-Day to the fall of Berlin. The True Glory, which he directed with Carol Reed. used newsreel footage and a strong patriotic commentary to impressive effect, and was much appreciated by the critics. It won the Oscar for best documentary in 1945, and was named Best Film by the National Board of Review.

Living at Claridges with buzz-bombs falling all around. Kanin had nothing to do in the evenings, so to stop himself drinking too much he began to write a serious film about a sleazeball in Washington with a string of mistresses. However, he soon realised that censorship would make it impossible to film - we're talking about a time when kisses used to be timed with a stopwarch" - so Born Yesterday was born as a play.

The middlebrow three-act piece which opened on Broadway in 1946 was not serious, not a film and not about politics. Instead it was a comedy in the school of Pygmalion and Edu-

BIDU SAYAO

cating Rita: a tycoon is embar-rassed by the gaffes made by his bimbo, but when she like Kanin — tries to improve herself with a liberal education, she discovers that he is

Jean Arthur dropped out of the part in rehearsals, giving Judy Holliday the opening that made her name. The show ran in New York for 1,642 performances, and was

revived as recently as 1989.

Marilyn Monroe was among Kanin's suggestions for the film role — he liked the way she played sex as a "gorgeous joke" — but the studio bosses at Columbia thought she lacked star quality. Given the part again, Holliday won an Oscar in 1950. She was later to appear in Kanin and Gordon's The Marrying Kind (1952).

Kanin wrote three flimsy plays in 1949-50, and his later theatre work included a staging of The Diary of Anne Frank in 1955 (for which he interviewed surviving friends), Sunday in New York in 1961, and Funny Girl in 1964, with Barbra Streisand. He also wrote and directed the musical Do-Re-Mi, which came to London in 1961. He wrote and wrote, latterly for the shelf rather than the stage or screen, and at 72 became president of the Authors League of America.

Kanin's first wife, Ruth Gordon, was 16 years his senior and died in 1985. Five years later he married the actress Marian Seldes, who was 16 years his junior and who survives him.

SIR PETER HOPE

series, Moviola: he never

Sir Peter Hope, KCMG, TD, diplomat, died on March 12 aged 86. He was born on May 29, 1912.

PETER HOPE was a versatile diplomat who served in MIS and MI6 as well as in the conventional Diplomatic Service. After his retirement he made a new career in business as a director of several companies and as an international adviser to several others. He also developed a talent for fundraising for his favourite charities.

Charles Peter Hope was educated at the Oratory School: at Imperial College London, where he stilled mathematics: and then at Cambridge. He joined the

Royal Horse Artillery in 1937 and retired as major in 1946, but his attachment to the Army was largely nominal. In fact he joined M16 in 1938, was in at the start of Special Operations Executive in 1940, and in 1941 transferred to MIS. where his gift for languages led him to specialise in the interrogation of continental Europeans coming to England. In the winter of 1944 he went to SHAEF headquarters. to locate British traitors. He was awarded the Territorial Efficiency Decoration in 1945.

After the war Hope transferred to the Foreign office. Secretary (Administration) at the British Embassy in Paris

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DIRECTORY

sounding change from intelligence work was nothing of the kind, but presented a considerkind, but presented a considerable challenge, on which he always looked back with relish. He was responsible for two thousand personnel, all of whom had to be supplied from England (even food and coal were imported) in order to avoid involvement with the French black market. He also coped imperturbably with his coped imperturbably with his Ambassador, Sir Alfred Duff Cooper, and with the redoubt-

able Lady Diana. From 1950 to 1952 he was assistant head of the United Nations Department at the Foreign Office. The Korean War occupied much of his time, but he also worked from 1946 to 1950. This dull- closely with the Colonial Of-

LEGAL NOTICES

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fice on new plans for Africa. Hope served in Germany from 1953 to 1956, first as acting Head of Chancery and then as chairman of the Joint Intelligence Committee at Monchengladbach, and was appointed CMG in 1956. He

then spent the most demanding three and a half years of his career as head of news department in the Foreign Office. Four days after he took over the department, the Israelis invaded Egypt. As Foreign Office spokesman he had to deal with hostile press and television throughout the Suez crisis and learns the arts of knowing when he should speak antributably and of gaining the journalists' trust. During his period in news

in the matter of K chillaram

& SONS (LONDON) LIMITED MUTICE IS HERRY GIVEN, pursu and to Section 98 of the Insolvency

ant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a seasting of craditors of the above company will be
held at 2 Bloomstory Street, Loudon, WCIB 3ST on 23 March 1990 at 11,00 am for the purpose of
dwiling with Sections 99 101 of
the Insolvency Act 1986,
Secured. craditors (unless they
stutted to the becurity) most
give particulars of their security
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and for values if they votes at

and Six varies it they wish is vote-at the meeting. The medications to be taken at the meeting way heliads a resolution specifying the texte on which the liquidates for to be reasonanted and the neeting may receive finite-metica shour, or be called upon to approve, the costs of preparing the extension of efficient and convening the meeting. An explanatory note is eachlosed.

NOTICE 38 MISO PREMERY GIVEN, persuant to Section 98(2) of the healtwary Act 1986, there is not of the memor and addresses of the company's medican may be extensioned free of charge at the offices of Saker THIS, 2 Boomshray Street, London, WCLE 28Th, between 10 and and 4 put on the two bentiums days prior to the day of the meeting.

A licen of corner which, if intuition

department Hope accompanied Harold Macmillan on his "wind of change" tour of Africa. He witnessed an unnerving row with Khrushchev, and was present at a "fence-mending" meeting with President Eisenhower in Bermuda and al Eisenhower's return visit to London.

From 1959 to 1962 Hope served as Minister at the British Embassy in Madrid. where he made no progress on the Gibraltar question, but persuaded the Spanish Foreign Ministry to reopen 17 non-Catholic churches, which had been closed by Franco. He There followed two years as Consul-General in Houston and four as Alternate British Delegate to the United Nations, under Lord Caradon.

In 1968 he went as Ambassador to Mexico. During his four years in post British exports to Mexico trebled. It was the time of the students' revolution (though Hope believed that behind them were more professional agitators, trained at Lumumba University and in North Korea), and the residence and office building were surrounded by troops. There were two unsuccessful bomb attacks and at the World Cup many Coca-Cola bottles were thrown at him. Despite the troubles, the Duke of Edinburgh paid a long visit to the Olympic Games of 1968 and

stayed 17 days at the embassy. Hope was a devout Catholic. He was a Knight of Justice of the Venerable Order of St John (the Knights of Malta) and a member of the order's governing body, in which he took a keen interest. He had many business connections. one of the most unusual of which involved negotiations with the Colombian Government over the raising of old Spanish wrecks.

In retirement in West Sussex he shot and fished, made a host of friends who valued him as a man of unfailing kindness and a lively raconteur, and continued, even in old age, to pay visits to his small farm in Spain. He took an active part in the Conservative Association and in the Council for the Protection of Rural England.

He married Hazel Turner in 1936. She survives him, along with two of their three sons.

Baldovina "Bidů" Sayão,

Brazilian soprano, died on March 12 aged 96. She was born in Rio de Janeiro on May II, 1902.

BIDU SAYAO was not only Brazil's greatest operatic soprano. She was also one of the last remaining links with the Golden Age of singing. During a career which spanned more than thirty years she appeared with Pertile and Gigli, Schipa and Thill. In-deed when Thill died she claimed that the era of great French tenors had passed for

a big voice and towards the end of her career it lost some of its volume. But it had a diamond-sharp edge and was used with great refinement. There was never anything remotely vulgar about the Sayao style of singing, and she made the most of her very feminine charms on stage. She was pert and pretty as Mozart's Susanna and Gonnod's Juliette and quite capable of tugging a heartstring or two as Puccini's Mimi. She was always careful never to venture into the heavier roles of the Italian and French reper-

Her career began and ended in her native Rio. She made her debut there as Rosina in The Barber of Seville in 1924.
And although she eventually took up American citizenship. she chose the same city for her farewell tour in 1958, including three of her favourite roles: Mimi, Juliette and Debussy's

Mélisande. Bidú Sayão's rise to prominence was almost the stuff of which Hollywood was made. Her father died when she was four and she was extremely strictly brought up by her mother, who devoted her own life to her daughter. Bidú's early ambitions to be an actress were very much frowned upon in a family where the stage was not considered to be a respectable profession. However, she was allowed to take singing lessons. One of the teachers, Madame Teodorini, was Romanian and when she suddenly decided to return to her

followed her there. The reward was to appear in a concert given for Queen

native country Bidu Sayão



Vocal gifts used with great refinement: Bidu Sayāo in 1954

Marie of Romania, who was sufficiently impressed to send Sayão to study with Jean de Reszke. She was one of his last pupils before his death in 1925 and it was he who put the idea into her head that she might be an opera singer and not just a concert performer.

After that Rio debut much of her early career was spent in Rome, where she sang coloratura parts, such as Amina in Bellini's La sonnambula and Adina in Donizetti's L'elisir d'amore. Then came Paris and the Opera Comique, with Massenet and Gounod. There was also Reynaldo Hahn, who coached her personally in Si

mes vers avaient des ailes. She came to the attention of Arturo Toscanini, who trained her for her American concert debut, in Debussy, at the Carnegie Hall in 1934. And it was New York which provided the house with which she will always be most associated, the Met, where she appeared as Manon in 1937. She sang there until 1951, moving

gradually to more lyric roles such as Mélisande and Verdi's

Violetta. To the regret of many she never appeared there as Donizetti's Lucia: that role was reserved for Lily Pons.

During her last years in New York her career was closely monitored by her second husband, the baritone Giuseppe Danise. He was careful to steer her away from all parts that might have overtaxed the voice. Rudolf Bing, the new general admin-strator at the Met, was not a Sayāo admirer and the Brazilian soprano took her leave of the house with a performance of La Boheme, with the upand-coming Giuseppe di Siefano partnering her.

She broke her reorement

briefly to record Floresta Amazonica for her friend and compatriot, Hector Villa-Lobos. She had long been one of his favoured interpreters. Thereafter she was content to live in retirement on the

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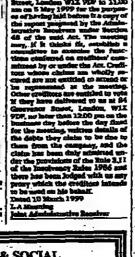


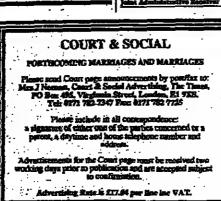
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AUSTRIA TAKEN OVER NAZI REJOICINGS IN VIENNA

Vienna, March 15 Herr Hitler, speaking before the Austrian War Memorial this morning with such emotion that he had not full control of his voice, proclaimed that Austria, the oldest of the German military marches, was to resume her traditional mission as the bastion of the German Reich in the east, the iron guarantor of the Reich freedom and security. Herr Hitler said that he was certain that

the East March would master its task as well as it had done of old. It must have occurred to some of Herr Hitler's hearers that the old East March, in the course of mastering its task, gave the bastion a very extensive glacis. Herr Hitler said that he had to report to the German nation the greatest achievement of his life, the entry of his homeland into the

German Reich. German men and women (said Herr Hitler), within a few days there has been a revolution in the community of the German people the extent of which we are able to see today, but the significance of which only later

ON THIS DAY

March 16, 1938

Adolf Hitler, speaking with great motion, described the joining together of the German and Austrian states as the greatest achievement of his life. Hitler was, of course, born in Austria.

generations can measure. In recent years those at the head of the regime which has been overthrown often spoke of the special mission Which in their eyes this country had to fulfil. The role of the so-called independence of Austria which was founded in the Peace Treaties and was dependent on the grace of the foreigner was to hinder the creation of a truly great German Reich and to bar the way

to the German people's future. t now proclaim for this land its new mission. Its mission answers to the vocation which once called hither German settlers

from all parts of the old Reich. The oldest East March of the German people is from now on to be the newest bastion of the German nation and so of the German Reich. For centuries in the unquiet times of the past the storms of the east broke on the frontiers of the old march. For centuries more, for all the future she is to be again an iron guarantor of the security and freedom of the German Reich and so a surery for the happiness and peace of our great people. And I know this, the old East March of the German people will fulfil its new task iust as the old task was solved and mastered.

I speak in the name of the millions of men. of this wonderfully beautiful German land. and, above all, in the name of the city of Vienna, when in this moment I assure the 68,000,000 of other fellow-Germans in our broad Reich: "This land is German."

The new military significance to be given to Austria was brought home to the Viennese this afternoon as the columns of the German Army (now including the Austrian Army), led by 150 tanks, marched or rode down the Ringstrasse for more than two hours after parading before the Führer. Over the nousetons roared the engines of 150 bombers and about 80 other aeroplanes, startling the pigeons, and even the dogs, who are not yet accustomed in Vienna to the panoply of

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Chancellor's package misses mark

Henrietta Lake says that Budget measures will be of help to only a small number of firms

mail and medium-sized companies are totting up the cost of last week's Budget, with many finding themselves out of pocket. Most of Gordon Brown's policy decisions concerning small firms were wide of the mark, such as the research and development tax reliefs, which, according to some observers, targeted the wrong companies.

Other changes, such as the extensions to national insurance. simply added to the financial burden of smaller firms.

The package of pro-enterprise measures from research and development to corporate venturing have raised the profile of smaller, growing firms. but many of these impressivesounding initiatives are burdened by so many restrictions and qualifications that they will benefit only a small percentage of companies.

Mike Warburton, senior tax Cartner at Grant Thornton, the accountants, said that many of the changes announced in the Budget will simply add to the complexity: "1999 is going to be an administrative nightmare for firms, from the Working Time Directive to the minimum

new scheme to help

small but growing

enterprises to attract high-

calibre managers from larger

companies have been con-

demned as a "complete waste

Under the new Enterprise

Management Incentive (EMI)

scheme announced as part of the

Budget proposals to encourage

enterprise, small companies will

be able to reward risk-takers

leaving secure jobs with up to

£100,000 in shares.

of space" by a City expert.

es plus, from October, tax cred-its for working families and dis-abled people. The Government must address this now.

The new 10 per cent band of corporadon tax brings a tax break for the very smallest companies. For the remainder, however, it adds complexity. Only firms with taxable profits of up to £10,000 will benefit from the full 10 per cent rate, a maximum saving for any firm of

Sheen Sullivan from Pannell Kerr Forster, the accountants, said: "f am very worried about multiplicity of tax bands. We are now faced with a tax system with about 60 different tax rates. People who have never had to fill out a tax return in their life are likely to be deterred from leaving the security of employment within a company and setting out on their own. This defeats the purpose of creating risk-takers."

Life not only becomes more complicated for most firms but also more expensive. One of the most costly changes is the extensions to employers' national insurance contributions. From April 2000 firms must pay NI on all employee benefits, from private medical insurance to liv-

However, the scheme, target-

ed at firms with gross assets of

£15 million or less, excludes

quoted companies, which

some argue could lead to a re-

duction in the number of small-

er quoted companies. As a fur-

ther restriction, unquoted com-

parties that could qualify for the incentive are prevented

from floating for three years af-

Michael Jacobs, chairman

ter taking up the scheme.

ing accommodation and loans.
David Oakden, who runs Weiland Electronics, a manufacturing firm based in Guildford, says these changes will

cost £150 extra per employee. "It is hard to get good people in this part of the world. I need to offer them good packages, induding health and insurance benefits, which f will now have to pay national insurance contributions on. The Budget simply means I will have to restrict the number of people I hire."

NI will now be charged at a level rate of 12.2 per cent for the tax year 1999-2000, going down to 11.7 per cent the following

Mr Oakden added: "What f object to is the Chancellor saying we are all getting tax cuts. but most of the initiatives apply to the smallest firms or startups. For the rest of us, costs are Richard Baldwin at Deloitte

& Touche, the accountants, said: "Don't forget that stamp duty and fuel duty increases also affect companies. The benefits of many initiatives will quickly be wiped out by new

of Cisco, the City group for

smaller quoted companies, said: "The EMI is regarded by

many in the City as a complete

waste of time. Smaller quoted

companies have suffered bad-

ly since pension funds started

withdrawing their investment.

This scheme will act as a further incentive to take com-

The scheme was also criti-

cised by Malcolm Hurlston,

panies private."



not as straightforward as they might appear. The details of the research and development tax credits - 12.5 per cent for taxpaying companies and 24 per cent for those who are not announced the day after the Budget are typical. Only new or small firms are eligible for the tax cuts on investments above £50,000, and only if they are

"It also seems to defeat the purpose that companies which Many of the new schemes an-nounced by the Chancellor are not eligible," said David Bell-

Budget plans will act as spur to take companies private, writes Susan Emmett ees can buy shares out of their

chairman of the Employee

Share Ownership Centre, for

providing no incentive to an

average smaller company. Mr

Hurlston said: "It is particu-

larly designed for high-tech,

fast-growing firms whose val-

ue is going up fast. If you are

working for a fairly run-of-the-mill smaller business.

then the scheme is of little ben-

Mr Hurlston added that the

Share incentive scheme 'unworkable'

receiving no other subsidies or

ringer, of Arthur Andersen, the accountants. "Many of the high-tech, fast-growing firms that the Government says it is trying to target need the investment at their very earliest

stages."
The methods by which most small firms recoup the R&D benefit, through a deduction against corporation tax contributions, does nothing to alleviate the problem of cashflow, because of the time between investment and deduction.

Geoff Edwards, of Grant

other share incentive, all-

employee schemes announced

by Gordon Brown in the Budg-

et, was not enough to entice

bosses at smaller companies to

offer the scheme and did not

help small companies because

there was no market for their

shares. Under the new all-

employee share scheme aimed

at boosting the number of workers holding a stake in

their own companies, employ-

lief is being targeted at the wrong firms and excludes those which stand to gain the most because of the amount they spend on R&D. These slightly larger firms are more likely to drive

Britain's productivity.
"I think it may be a case of too little, too late," said Mr Ed-

While the owners and managers of Britain's four million small and medium-sized firms start to cost some of the implications of the Budget, they may wish that Mr Brown had sim-

However, Marc Lucas, man-

aging director of Lucas Soft-

ware Solutions, was quick to dismiss the proposals. Mr

Lucas, whose company em-

ploys a core of six people, said: "We would have to be a pretty

sizeable business before offer-

ing anything like this. It's a pa-

perwork nightmare. The administrative burden would

be enormous. Whoever dreamt

up this idea has obviously

never run a company."

pre-tax pay.

UK firms slow to exploit Web

an, let alone their American, counterparts when it comes to recognising the compentive threat imposed by the Internet on their home market.

Research unveiled by Oracle. the software company, and the Institute of Directors shows that only 2 per cent of British companies thought the Internet posed a threat from firms using the Web outside the UK. By contrast, 14 per cent of US firms, 23 per cent of Norwegian and 17 per cent of German firms were worried about competition.

Although UK business leaders considered their own companies

■ UK companies are frighteningly far behind their Europe-UK as laggards. British firms were also less aware of opportunities offered by the Internet. with fewer than one in 25 believing that costs could be reduced by using the Web.

Tim Melville-Ross, directorgeneral of the InD, said: "The UK is uniquely well-positioned to take advantage of the internet. We've got the benefit of English, the Internet language. some of the brightest IT skills in the world and a strong economy. We ought to be in the first rank of nations taking the leap forward. Instead, our survey shows we are resting on our laurels."

■ The decision on the fate of local training and enterprise councils has been deferred yet again so that their role in the delivery of the new Small Business Service can be explored. However, some recommendations of the long-overdue report, launched last July. have been announced. These are to strengthen partnerships and accountability, improve the quality of work-based training and streamline contracting with providers. The full review is expected this summer. Comments should be sent to Val Kenton, W3b, Moorfoot, Sheffield, SI 4PQ or val.kenton-consuit@dfee.gov.uk.

nise the importance of con-fidentiality in their whistleblowing telephone "hotlines" for staff. Manchester University has conducted a report showing that for hotlines to be effective, they must be free of charge, accessible 24 hours a day and widely publicised. Copies of the report can be obtained by calling 0.012 262 5082 ing 0181-362 5983.

Companies need to recog- Outdated management approaches constrain competitiveness, according to a report commissioned by the Institute of Personnel and Development. It recommends that managers must drop common assump-tions: all that counts is the performance that top management see; people's future employability is of no concern; and that managers decide what people need and trainers implement.

PETER CORNTHWAITE, group finance director at Blackpool Pleasure Beach, which has been in the family for more than 100 years and has just over 300 loyees, says stop the phasing out of profit-related pay.

The Chancellor's scheme for employee share ownership may be fine and dandy for other firms, but for a familyowned business like ours it is frankly an irrelevance. The family members do not want to dilute their shareholding.

had addressed these issues.

"Profit-related pay works

very well — I can set a base profit level above which profitrelated pay kicked in, ensuring most staff benefit. The tax advantages also work well for the company. I know that the Treasury has encountered tax avoidance problems with some firms, but I wish the Budget





Cornthwaite, keep status quo Any company wishing to

express a view in Megaphone

should contact In Business.

How Britain can profit from American model

Inspiration for

the small firms

body came from

Washington, says

Henrietta Lake

The Small Business Service (SBS) an-nounced by Gordon Brown last week could have the power to answer many of the pleas of Britain's growing It aims to provide co-ordinat-

ed support for small and across government departments and represent their needs at the heart of policy-making. Over the next few months a consultation process with business will take place to decide the structure, role and operation of the SBS. Some £100 million has already been sel aside for the project and it could be up and run-

ning by the autumn.
The Government has also been looking for inspiration statistic the UK. Last month a group of civil servants went to Washington to visit the head-quarters of the Small Business Administration and apparently returned impressed. It is likely that many of the functions of the British Small Business Service will be modelled on the SBA in the US, which was set up in 1953 to champion America's entrepreneurs.

The SBA acts as the advo-Before becoming the Ameri-

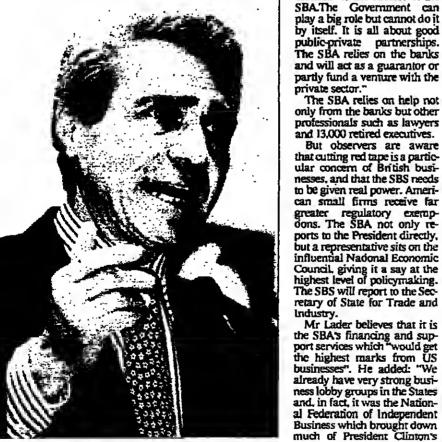


Philip Lader says the SBA example could be copied in the UK

state and federal government level, provides support services and provides primary source of funding for small firms. In 1997 the SBA acted as a guarantor for \$29 billion (E18 billion) worth of loans, directly lent \$10.9 billion and invested \$2.37 billion through its venture capital programme to

can Ambassador to Great Brit-ain in 1997. Philip Lader was head of the Small Business Administration. He told The Times: "In the US and probably globally, the primary challenge for small business is

That is why in America the variety of funding tools from the loan guarantees and venture capital to micro-loans is



access to capital.

US over the past six years would enthusiastically commend the initiatives in the UK

to assist small and mediumsized growth firms."
But he added: "The devil is always in the detail. Even with its success in the US, and after 46 years of perpetual reinvention. the SBA is seeking to improve how it works and what it does."

healthcare initiaove.

However, he said that, in

the mission to cut red tape, the

SBA could play a role and should lead by example. Mr Lader said: "Anyone who has seen what the SBA

has done for the remarkable

record of job creation in the

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CHANGING TIMES

CHOOSE YOUR PLAYERS FROM HERE

COALKEEPERS



Robbie Fowler's two goals for Liverpool on Saturday may have been in vain but those who included him in their Fantasy League teams were delighted with the six points

Double helping of points available for far-sighted

t has been a busy week in the FA Carling Premiership and, hence, in The Times Fantasy League. Midweek victories for Arsenal, Derby County and Leeds United were followed up by further wins on Saturday, with the defenders in the Arsenal and Leeds sides repelling all-comers and earning six points for any Fantasy League entrant with the judgment to

Dennis Bergkamp, with two goals against Sheffield Wednesday at Highbury a week ago and a penalty at Everton on Saturday, was the week's top scorer and would be the obvious candidate for our player of the week award but for the fact that he has already received the title, and we prefer to share it around. There were plenty of other

candidates. Derby County enjoyed two wins at Pride Park, over Aston Villa and Liverpool, and although neither opponent represents a formidable barrier these days, the goalscoring of Paulo Wanchope, the Costa Rican, and "Neon" Deon Burton, of Jamaica, together with the midfield creativity of Francesco Baiano, of Italy, deserved

The Leeds United defenders have kept out Tottenham and Sheffield Wednesday over the past six days, and are part of a team which is being taken increasingly seriously as contenders for one of the three places on offer for the European Champions' League. In front of Nigel Martyn, the goalkeeper, Lucas Radebe, Ian Harte, Jonathan Woodgate and the others have all enhanced their reputations and, it is worth pointing out, gained six Fantasy League points each.

A player does not, however, have to be part of a successful team to earn points. Take Dougie Freedman, for instance. The Nottingham Forest forward, who has also played for Barnet, Crystal Palace and Wolves, scored Forest's consolation goal in the 2-1 home defeat by Newcastle United on Wednesday, and was also on target in his team's unexpected victory over Wimbledon at Selhurst Park on Saturday. With Wimbledon



pressing for an equaliser, Freedman swept the ball out to Matthieu Louis-Jean on the right, and charged upfield in time to accept the full back's forward pass, move clear of the last defender and lob the ball over the advancing goalkeeper. Neil

Another relatively unheralded player who added six points to his Fantasy League total this week was Steve Vickers, the Middlesbrough central defender. An established figure on Teesside, he has played alongside a series of defensive partners, including Gianluca Festa and, most recently, Gary Pallister. but seldom takes the spotlight himself. A goal on Sunday in the 3-0 win over Southampton gave him a rare chance to grab some attention.

European Cup final

• £10,000 to the runner-up

• £5,060 for third place

sports equipmen

Which of these deserving cases gets our award? The answer appears opposite.

Li Even if your team's performance

does not put you in the running for the award of £500 for the team of the week, you still have a chance to collect an equally valuable prize if your team total matches the ON-Target numbers printed opposite. Follow the instructions for a chance to win this week's ON-Target prize.

☐ For legal reasons. The Times
Fantasy League is no longer able to accept entries from players under 18 years of age. Players 17 years and younger who are already registered in the main and youth leagues will, however, be allowed to remain in the competition.

As I was saying

You know they always say about one-sided matches that if it was a boxing match they would have stopped it? I am aware of the saying. Well, I was thinking after the Holyfield against Lewis fight that it might be interesting if we judge games the way they do in the Noble Art. Do you envisage someone

like David Elleray putting his arms around Paul Jones, the Southampton that he shouldn't take any more punishment, then? I don't think that would work. For example, the referee at Selhurst on Saturday would have given the game to Wimbledon after five or six minutes in that case, and in fact Forest went on to win. Plus I don't think spectators would really

like paying out for only a few minutes of action. Although we've both seen games where two or three minutes of action were spread out over 90 minutes? Good point. But it wasn't so much referees stopping

matches as the idea that if there are no goals scored, then a panel of observers could decide who wins. I can certainly imagine that your plan would add some spice. Instead of drifting away after an inconclus result, the crowd could stay on and cheer the announcement by the

But you'd have to think carefully about who those judges would be. The referee and his essistants, surely?

No, they've got enough to think about, waving flags and coloured cards around. Some observers in the stand,

one neutral, I suppose? That's the way I see it. So for, say, Arsenal against Chelsea you could have Clive Anderson as the home judge, David Mellor as the away judge and .. Alan Hansen as the

That could be difficult. The result could affect Liverpool's position, so hisneutrality could be called into question. But everyone supports someone. And you couldn't allow anyone with a

a judge, could you, in case they needed one of their players to keep a clean sheet and the decision Well, they'd still keep the clean sheet points, wouldn't

But you can't keep a clean sheet and lose, can you? It's not logical. After Lewis and Holyfield.

CENTRE BACKS



With anothe won, it's tim

FORWARDS

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on sale from 6th Apr

£1,900 youth prize, plus monthly prizes of a Premiership football shirt £500 weekly On-Target prize HOW TO ENTER YOUR FANTASY LEAGUE TEAM

● £50,000 to the top Fantasy League manager, plus a trip for two to the

£1,000 monthly prizes: eight prizes of £1,000, plus £100 of Pums

£500 weekly prizes: 36 prizes of £500, plus £100 of Puma sports

Select a team of 11 Premiership players from those listed right. The total value of your team must not exceed £50m and you cannot choose more than one player from the same Premiership club. Your team must be in a 4-4-2 formation with: one goalkeeper; two full-backs; two centre-backs; four midfielders; and two forwards. TO ENTER BY POST Name your team on the

entry form, left, in no more than 16 characters. Enter the correct three-digit player codes from the list, right, followed by the players' names. Enter the first three characters of each player's team under the heading CLUB, ie, LEE for Leeds. Also enter the value of each player shown on the list right. Add up the values of the 11 players in your

team and make sure the total does not exceed £50m. Send your entry to the address shown, with a cheque/PO for £2.50 (£10 sterling outside UK or Rol) or your credit-card details. You will get nation of your team and your personal identity number (PIN) on receipt of your entry form. Readers under 18 should seek parental permission before entering. They must state their date of birth and indicate if they wish to enter our Youth League

LUCKY DIP if you would like us to select a team at random for you, please tick the Lucky Dip box on the entry form. Postal entries only. TO ENTER BY PHONE Call 0640 67 88 99 (+44 870 901 4209 outside the UK) using a touch-

tone (DTMF) phone and when prompted tap in your 11 three-digit player codes. You will be asked to give the name of your team (no more than 16 characters). You will then be given a 10-digit PIN, make sure you write this down and keep it safe to be able to check your team's progress and make transfers. Calls last about seven minutes. 0640 calls are 60p per minute. Calls from outside the

UK are charged at national Calls from payphones cost

THE TIMES	MAIN FANTASY LEAGUE ENTRY FORM	
lubralt your entry as soon as possible to madenise your point accoring oppo ANTASY TEAM NAME (up to 10 characters)	l also wish to enter the Youth Langua (please ficid)	
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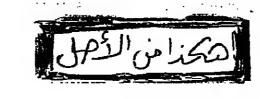
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HELPLINE



Marvellous Martyn calls the shots

With two clean sheets in the space of four days last week, the Leeds goalkeeper

lent a helping hand to this week's winner

ornwall is not generally known as a hotbed of soccer talent. Nevertheless, Great Britain's south-westernmost county has made at least one important contribution to the England national squad and the quality of the FA Carling Premiership. Nigel Martyn, a son of St Austell, and the goalkeeper of Leeds United and England, has been so consistent that, these days, strikers are having to produce the very best in order to get the ball past

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aid

Remember the Tottenham Hotspur versus Leeds Worthington Cup replay at White Hart Lane? Martyn's outstretched fingertips, ably assisted by the inside of an upright, denied David Ginola what would unquestionably have been the goal of the season, and only goals by Darren Anderton and Ginola, which themselves were both strong candidates for the annual title, could bear him.

David O'Leary, the Leeds manager, is at pains to dismiss any talk of his team of promising young talents becoming contenders for a place in the European Champions' League ("Overachievers" was his verdict on the team after their league victory over Tottenham last Werinesday), but he can have no doubts about the quality of the experienced Martyn, his last line of lence, who is pushing David Seaman hard for the England goalkeeper's jersey.

He began his professional career in the West Country (although it probably seemed like the North East to him) at Bristol Rovers, before moving to Crystal Palace for El million in late 1989. A further £2,250,000 was required to take him to Elland Road in the summer of

This season he is threatening to improve on the outstanding form he showed during his first season at Leeds (1996-97), when he kept 19 clean sheets in 37 games, although the way the defenders in front of him have been playing recently, he can probably afford to take the occasional breather and still not risk conceding a goal.

With their comfortable victory over Sheffield Wednesday at Hillsborough on Saturday, Leeds have now notched five successive wins, and kept the opposition out Dwice in the past six days, moving assuredly into fourth place, two points behind Chelsea, and carning any Fantasy League entrants with Martyn in their sides a useful six points, with plenty more, one feels. to come.

Martyn is the goalkeeper in this week's £500 prize-winning team. The



THE LONE GUNMEN N Martyn (LEE) J Kenna (BLA) . D Gordon (MID) S Campbell (TOT) R Ferdinand (WES S Eranio (DER) T Ketsbala (NÉW) D Bergkamp (ARS) A Cole (MAN) Total points: 34

Lone Gunmen, chosen by Jayne Dray, of Liphook, Hampshire, who supports Leeds as well as Wolves. An A-level student at Alton College, Ms Dray, who also plays the beautiful game, "when I get the chance," wins £100-worth of Puma sports equipment into the bargain.

Her defence also included Rio Ferdinand and Dean Gordon, who each contributed three points to the Gunmen, although Gordon could have done even better had a first-half shot in Middlesbrough's game against Southampton on Sunday found the net instead of the foot of a post.

Her star performers, though, were up front, Andy Cole and Dennis Bergkamp producing 15 of her team's total of 34 points. All the usual puns about Cole, goals and Newcastle were out in force on Sunday after the former St James' Park favourite came back to haunt his old club yet again with both of Manchester United's goals in their

Bergkamp, with nine points carned by three goals in five days. post-World Cup lethargy that seemed to afflict him in the early months of this season.



but PFA award winner and England squad regular Nigel Martyn has risen to the top. Two clean sheets for the Leeds United goalkeeper last week meant six Fantasy League points for our weekly winner

FANTASY LEAGUE TOP 100 James Kerr Serebjet Kehl Rebert Little This Ones Mine Paci O'Nelli, Four Four Two Reel Datama Henri & Goals UU **Regrietta Ball** He B G Bees Goals 'R Us... Tigger United Spertak Mos Nathan Hotspurs The Future's Rec The Odd Squad Spitonthe Nath's Cham Bradley Woo Tony Murase Terry Bullen. David Daley... Mandy Adamso Raymond Georg Man(dy) United Razor D El Tel's Revene Harrogate Eleven Aladin's Army.... Big Bad Mols 11 James Muir.... Matts Marac.

With another 15 prizes to be won, it's time to give it a try

If your Fantasy League team is struggling, don't despair, there is consolation to be found by checking if you're ON-Target

Dave Osbourne. of Minehead, the main winner of ON-Target this week, who finds himself £500 richer Jd possessor of an EA Sports Pack. Fourteen others also managed to win excellent prizes.

Even if you do not have a Fantasy League team, you can enter this new game now - or enter a new one simply for ON-Target. All managers have the chance to win a share of £28,000 of new prizes. The Times has teamed up with EA Sports to offer you the chance to own the renowned Fifa 99 game. Every week you have the chance to win: 🖪 1st Prize: E500 plus an

EA Sports Pack 4 runners up: EA Sports Packs 📠 10 additional runners up: Fifa 99 CD-Rom. IF YOU already have a team in the main game. then you're ready to play ON-Target. Simply check your Fantasy League playscore each week and the if their total is the same as our ON-Target score shown here each Tuesday. If you have scored the exact target points, a quick call to our ON-Target winners' line (national rate call) will put you in the draw to win

one of the 15 prizes.

The ON-Tarper score may

THIS WEEK'S **ON-TARGET SCORE** Has your toam scored . . .

5 or 10 or 15 points?

Check your total, then ring 0870 901 4270 (ex UK +44 870 901 4270)

> Calls charged at national rates

be high or low. There could be more than one score (such as today). It could be a minus score. So its worth checking your performance every week. Just have your PIN number handy to call the winners line on:

0870 901 4270 If you don't have a team, or want to sign up another. one, enter now by filling in the entry form. There are no limits to how many seams you enter. Not only could you win the ON-Tar-

get prizes, but you could

win the main game week-

ly (£500) or monthly (£1,000) prizes. HOW TO ENTER: Look up

your players' weekly point scores opposite and add them up, or call the checkline 0640 625 102. If your total score for this week matches **ON-Target** number(s), then call our claim line on 0870 901. 4270 (calls, charged at national rate, should last about a minute). Claims must be made before midnight on Sunday night. The lines then close until the next game starts on Tuesday





the claim line, you go into the draw. Just look in the paper on the following Tuesday to see if you have won. Managers with the correct points who have not called the claim line will not be entered. Calls that are incomplete, inaudible or invalid will not be entered. OT MYZIKA WILL THOS DE CITIETED.

THIS WEEK'S WINNERS: Dave Osbourns, of Minched (ESD) plus EA Sports
Packs; Greg Ellis, of Menchester, Daved
Hayden, of Cardill, Damen Cast, of Fethram,
Jenny Kumber, of Baydon-on-Tyne (EA
Sports Packs), George Handley, of Leeds,
Joan Alexander, of Henley-on-Tharmes,
Genrard Colemen, of Lanchester, Mack Trovell, of Samundham, Claire Durn, of Notlangham, Robin Frost, of Steyning, Oms
Dobs, of Wincester, Carnella Begg, of Cranbrook, Roper Gilson, of Welford, David
Craggs, of Southernoton (Fila 99 CDRome).

FANTASY LEAGUE QUIZ



The Fantasy League cruiz gives you the chance to test your football knowledge. Two weeks ago we showed you four players who have bettered emselves this season

in terms of league position, although they remain registered, for Fantasy League purposes, with their original clubs: Tim

Sherwood (now Tottenham Hotspur), Steve Watson (Aston Villa), Dwight Yorke (Manchester United) and Paolo Di Canio (West Ham United). What have this eek's four (and only





CHECK YOUR SCORES TELEPHONE 0640 62 51 02

YOUTH LEAGUE TOP 25							
1	Sarabjot Kohli	Junglemen	329				
2	Matthew O'Neil	The M Team	306				
3	Robert Anderson	Robert's Rovers	306				
4	Tom Summers	,Ganichou	302				
5	Awalant Popat	Popat's Army	301				
6	Henrietta Ball	Henn & Goals UU	300				
7	Stuart Rutter	Spitonthevilla	295				
8	Matthew Watson	Matts Magic	292				
8		,Noteamname	292				
0	Claire Barber	Super Spurs	291				
1	James Griffiths	Griffs Eleven	289				
2		Titus All Stars	287				
3	Daulei Lewis	It's A Puppet!	285				
3	Steven Wynne	Universe Stars	285				
5		Manchester City	284				
5	Alexander Thackray-Norris.	Firichmeadrovers	284				
7	Matthew Glies	Rowstock Rovers	281				
7	Sacob Bonehill	Satans Spawn,	281				
9	Dawn Marshalisay	The Speedy Cats	280				
9		Legion Of Doom	280				
9	Kevin Ross	Super Kevin's	280				
2	Adam Thayers	FC Flash 8v B09	279				
2		Saxharn Tuesdays	279				
4		Stevie's Wonders	277				
4	Paol Williams	Where Was Gazza	277				

Late bloomers spring into action

Now that we're coming to the final few furlongs of The Times Fantasy League, you can be sure that the contenders for European places and the relegation strugglers will step up their form. It's always worth backing a struggling side over a mid-table side who have nothing left to play for, and this should certainly be considered by Fantasy League

managers, too.

Nottingham Forest upset Wimbledon at the weekend to stay in with a chance of staying in the Premiership next year; expect further shock results.

In Fantasy League there is indeed the phenomenon of "spring specialists" - those players who start to produce their goods once the daffodils of spring start blooming. Despite failing to keep Bolton in the Premiership last

season, Alan Thompson was at the heart of everything that the Trotters did during this time and scored a mighty impressive 30 points after March 1. This season it could be Matt Le Tissier, of Southampton, Jason Wilcox, of Blackburn, Mark Kinselia. of Charlton, or Nick Barmby, of Everton, who hit form when it

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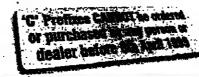
C's the day

'C' Prefix personalised registrations on sale from 6th April 1999



From 6th April 1999 DVLA Select Registrations 'C' series (numbers 1-20 only) will be available for sale. Most from just £499, no other charges or fees.

DVLA SELECT REGISTRATION HOTLINE © 0870 6000 142 DVLA's Select Registration Hotline will operate 8.00am-8.00pm from 6th-9th April 1999. Thereafter reverting to its normal hours 9.00am-5.00pm.



DNTA reserves the right to withhold coruin registrations from as School Registration scheme, some of which may be offered for sale at auction. Numbers are sold origins to the Sale of Registration Marks Regulations and are subject to availability. Prices are subject to change without price nature, Queey we have aurgued your mork, it may be transferred to another velocks subject to the DVLA's blungfor rules. Yet profiles to easy be assigned to revisible, first registered as now on a right 1.8.5. Registrations cannot be relevanted, on suspent to velocities, first registered as now on a right 1.8.5. Registrations cannot be propurly represented on member places. You will be breaking the law if they are not and the rights to such engistration unabors must be taken anny and you will not be ented to any rainformation of the registration aurabar. Deliver and Verticle

THE TIMES TODAY

Resign call to Santer and his team

■ Jacques Santer, the President of the European Commission. was under pressure to resign with members of his team last night after outside inspectors released a report that concluded that he had effectively lost control of the Brussels executive. MEPs of most political camps urged Mr Santer to take full responsibility for an epidemic of fraud, irregularities, cronyism and mismanagement...

Car bomb threatens peace process

■ The car-bomb murder of a leading nationalist lawyer plunged Northern Ireland's peace process into deep crisis yesterday, and last night rioting erupted near the scene of the explosion in Lurgan, County Armagh. Rosemary Nelson's killing makes it almost inconceivable that the IRA will agree to begin disarming before Good Friday's deadline......Pages I, 2

Muslim cleric arrested The radical Muslim cleric, Abu Hamza al Masri, was being questioned last night by anti terrorist squad officers after being arrested in a dawn raid at his West Lon-... Page I

Straw acts on Bulger Jack Straw is to set a new minimum jail term for the boys convicted of murdering James Bulger despite a ruling by the European Commission of Human Rights that they did not receive a fair Pages L 4

Woman, 85, 'starved' A doctor who ordered nursing home staff to starve an 85-yearold woman and to let her "slip away" was accused of serious professional misconductPage 3

Lewis draw 'mistake' The British judge who awarded the draw that denied Lennox Lewis the world heavyweight boxing title said he made an "honest mistake"....Page 5

Prescott defends trip John Prescott returns to his ministerial desk today after completing

a gruelling visit to India and the Maldive Islands......Page 6 Classics entry test The next generation of Oxford

classicists is entering university without knowing Latin or Greek,

Their aptitude to learn is judged by their ability to make sense of an invented language Page 8

Prince and penguins The Prince of Wales, on his official visit to the South Atlantic, briefly escaped the politics of sov-

ereignty during a tour of Sea Lion Archer's milk pledge

Milk took centre stage in the race to become London's mayor as Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare vowed to give free cartons to children... .. Page 10

China talks tough

China, displaying an unyielding stance on human rights, warned Western governments not to support Chinese dissidents living in ...Page 11

Kosovo turning point The ethnic Albanian delegation to

the resumed Kosovo peace talks handed in a letter saying they would sign up to the Contact Group's autonomy plan for thePage 12

Last Supper uproar The Italian Culture Minister

stepped into a mounting controversy over the restoration of Leonardo da Vinci's Last Supper, now in its final stages.....Page 13

Israeli water crisis

Israeli-Jordanian relations were plunged into their first crisis since the accession of King Abdullah II after Israel said it could no longer meet its commitment to provide its Arab neighbour with the set amount of water......Page 14

Roman tomb reveals secrets of old

The tomb of one of the richest and most powerful people in Roman London began to reveal its secrets yesterday after 1,800 years, but the identity of the VIP remained unknown. Archaeologists opened up a stone sarcophagus, which was discovered in the City of London on Friday on a site destined to become an office complex... .. Page 7



Mary-Ann Gallacher soaked up the sunshine yesterday as the temperature climbed to 16C (61F). Warm weather is expected until the weekend

Cable crash: Shares of Cable & Wireless lost almost 10 per cent of their value after the telecom company's biggest shareholder sold its stake at a discount to the market

Eurotunnel worries: Eurotunnel fears that price rises caused by the controversial abolition of duty free could result in a decline in the number of passengers Page 27 Euro mortgage: The Nationwide Building Society is launching the UK's first mortgage denominated in sterling but linked to European

recovered from an elbow injury and returns as captain of the Scot-.. Page 27 weekend. Markets: The FTSE 100 index feil 75.4 to 6206.8. The pound fell 1.22 cents to \$1.6216 and .51p to 67.49p against the euro. The sterling index fell to 102.3 from 103.1...... Page 30 stands at seven...

Boxing: Lennox Lewis may have to go through meaningless contests to acquire the three belts that will give him the title of undisputed world heavyweight champion Page 52 Football: The extent of the obsession with Ronaldo's fitness became apparent when television stations flew into a panic because the young star had missed training with a headache...

...Page 52

land team against Ireland this Racing: There is a growing conviction that Ireland could achieve a record number of winners at the Cheltenham Festival. The record

Rugby union: Gary Armstrong has

Mama Africa: As Miriam Makeba prepares for a Festival Hall concert, she talks about exile from South Africa, and her role as a goodwill ambassador.......Page 41 Scotland the brave: With the Scottish Chamber Orchestra in Edinburgh, Duncan McTier demonstrates again his complete mastery of the double bass in Robin Holloway's concerto..... _Page 41

London theatre: Greenwich Theatre unveils a noisy Hamlet that has been cut to ribbons, while Battersea Arts Centre stages an intriguing Gogol comedy Page 42 Big Screen USA: In our weekly look at the American box office, Michelle Pfeiffer buries her delectable-doll image in The Deep End of the Ocean. . Page 43

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ INTERFACE

with the weekly

■ HOMES

needs of ethnic

communities

Going to the Oscars

technology supplement

How housing should

change to reflect the

Doctor's busy: If you can't get in to see your GP, don't blame the NHS: blame the selfish patients who are clogging up surgeries Page 16 Medicine Chest: Dr Thomas Stuttaford on thyroid disease Page 16 Memories: Evening, Susan Minor's new novel, is about dying and death. It is not depressing but uplifting because it is about the richness of memory_ Page 17

Listings war: Nothing in the whole nuptials shenanigans is as sensitive as the wedding list _____Page 17 Treesures: The Antiques and Fine Arts Fair in the West End sets a high note for the season Page 34

Colour of justice: Is the legal profession riddled with racism? The latest figures on ethnic minority representation seem to suggest so ... Page 37 Power loss: Kevin Maxwell's contempt victory may mean an end to some of the Trade Department's draconian powers Page 39

It's been noted that much of Western Europe is now governed by leftwing political parties, a sharp change from the Thatcher-Kohl days of yore. But it's not clear how left those left-wing parties really are. The British Prime Minister Tony Blair followed Mr Clinton's. lead in steering his party away from its union base. Now Germany looks set to follow the same course. The Washington Post

Preview: A portrait of the writer. Close Up: Germaine Greer (BBC2, 9.30pm) Review: Joe Joseph on the latest BBCI fly-on-the-wall documentary Jailbirds Pages 50, 51

Sins of Commission According to the yearly auditors' re-

port, the European Commission's culture of cronyism has brought to the Commission some of the worst Spanish practices ... that have eroded public confidence in European Union institutions......Page 19

Children in court

If the ruling on the Bulger case leaves a sour taste, it is because it seems almost to overlook the particular horror of the crime.....Page 19

Street fighting man

An MP's plan to combat traffic jams offers much-needed relief for drivers suffering from the irritation ...Page 19 of blocked lanes....

MATTHEW PARRIS

This was the chance for MPs to raise that morning's recommendation from the European Commission of Human Rights, on the James Bulger trial. Nobody men-...Page 2 tioned it...

PETER RIDDELL

William Hague has done something sensible. He has stopped digging himself further into a hole on Europe.

LIBBY PURVES

The NSPCC launches its bigget campaign this evening . . . the difficult bit is to reach right inside the darkness of the most dangerous families. ...Page IS

MICHAEL GOVE

Do the Tories still believe they are so resented that their intervention in defence of unfairly vilified public servants would be as irritating as an unloved spouse's pouring of milk on the Cornflakes?.... Page 18

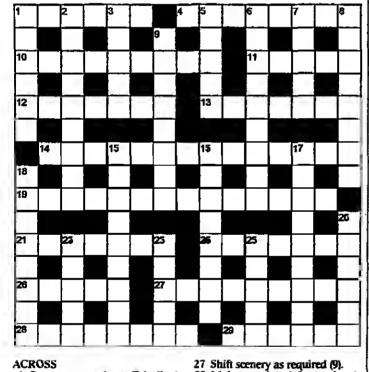
ROGER SCRUTON

British justice has enjoyed the confidence not only of the British people but of the entire civilised world ... but all that is changing Page 18

Garson Kanin, playwright; Bidu Sayao, opera singer; Sir Peter Hope, diplomat.... ...Page 2

Budget reaction; Pilate's reputation; NSPCC advertising; British Library dispute.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 21,052

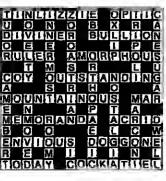


ACROSS 1 Open an eye and get off the line?

- 4 Drink that may lead to a smash
- 10 Prograstinate when it's time to get up (9).

 11 A brief, for example, is for the de-
- fence (5). 12 The only thing an exhausted
- army can beat? (7). 13 Goes flat out arranging tenancies to rent (4.3). 14 Highlights of an Arctic cruise,
- 19 You should be switched on by
- this (8-2,4). Notices faulty part (7).
- 24 In a group, coming from France
- 26 Still to be paid nothing to fly (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 21.051



28 Make a union defer tea break

29 Like three articles in the wash

- Recovery vessel put out in it
- 2 Having ruined bock, perhaps 3 Individual put on a little weight
- it's something in the air (5).

 5 Perfect profession for an entre-
- 6 Card woollen material that's genuine (9).
- A special guru or prophet (5). g Final appointment that precedes military retirement (4.4).
- 9 Seize with force after I'd taken over (8). 15 It's extensively used by an oars-
- man (9). 16 Clue one composed about power and riches (8).
- 17 Hit oddly shaped cover on light 18 Launching of report on cricket
- side (5-3). 20 Know about any transported
- from part of East Africa (6). 22 Infant learner told off, put out-
- side (5). 23 Lack of practice for players in group (5).

25 Flight leader (5). Times Two Crossword, page 52

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Sun sets: 6.05 pm Moon sets: 4,31 pm

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FOR SCHOOLS Out out this taken for your school boday. The more takens you collect that more free books your chool as a stem. A lotten will appear on the back page of section one in The Times each day and Saturday March II. See hable for bother details



real: most places will have a dry, mild poon. Ught to moderate SW wind. Mex 15C (59F) Li General; most places will have a dry, mild spring day with surnly spells. Northern end east-ern England will start cloudy with drozle, but will brighten up this affection. Scotland and North-ern treasing will have outbreaks of rain, continuing tongriz. Elsewhere it will be dry tonight with a few mast and tog patches. I London, SE England, Mildlandas starting cloudy but becoming mild with surnly spells Light, variable wird. Max 16C (61F). I Central S. & SW Englands.

Centrel S & SW England, Channel Islands, Walest dry, sunny spells after early log Light, variable wind. Max 13C (SSF)

I NW & Countel N England, Lake District, late of Man: cloudy morning, surny breaks the afternoon. Light to moderate SW wind. Max 14C (SSF)

Park real Fresh SW wind. Mex SC (Perf).

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I hist, Republik: cloudy start, brightering up later. Moderate to fresh SW wind. Mex 14C (S4F)

Outlook dry and mild with planty of warms styre, though the North will turn cloudy, bre and showery by Thursday.

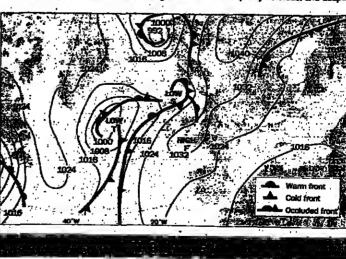


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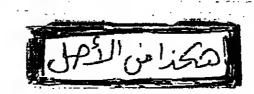
Total number of lives saved so far this year: Total number of lifeboat launches so far this year: Cost to RNLI per day: Cost to taxpayer: To make a donation, telephone:

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> 47 292 £222,000 Lifeboats



Counter hopes dashed

German telecoms a

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and Swiss each an Mr Clubb said ingi there was very higher transap between the two deses and there were be no job losses Tempus, page 30

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BUSINESS · LAW · ARTS · SPORT · TELEVISION



United in inter crunch Sport, page 48

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

TUESDAY MARCH 16 1999

German telecoms company nets £1.8bn

Market dives as Veba sells C&W stake

By Raymond Snoddy, media editor

A SURPRISE, heavily discounted sale of 10 per cent of Cable & Wireless sent shock waves through the telecommunications sector on the London stock market yesterday, with the FTSE 100 spi-ralling downward after its re-cent record-breaking highs.

The sale of the stake by Veba, the German telecoms company, which is thought to be the biggest "bought deal" on European markets, also netted ABN Amro Rothschild, the Dutch-owned securities house and Cazenove, the broker, about £27 million for a morn-

In a secret, dawn operation, Vehaoffloaded its entire C&W

Counter bid hopes dashed

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM.

IAN CLUBB, chairman of: First Choire, dange ened hopes that a com-ter-bidder will emerge for the UK tour operator, which yesterday announced a £1.45 billion merger with Kuoni, of Switzerland.

Mr Clubb said other companies that had made tentative approaches - believed to include Airtours and Preussag, which con-trols Thomas Cook - had been rejected at an early stage. He said: "Our analysis is that any combination of two of the top four UK tour operators could be referred to the Office of Fair Trading or the Euro-pean authorities, and that is an unacceptable risk." First Choice shares fell almost 8 per cent to 173p yesterday. Mr Clubb, who will be executive chairman of the enlarged group, said he was disappointed with the share price reaction, and expected to see a rerating once the implications of the deal were understood by the market.

The merged company will be called Knoni Holdings. It will be 53 per cent owned by Knoni shareholders and 47 per cent by First Choice share holders. Daniel Affolter, chairman of Kuoni, will be executive deputy chairman, while Riccardo Gul-lotti will be chief executive. Mr Gullotti is currently chief executive of Kuoni. The company will be listed on the London and Swiss exchang

Mr Clubb said that there was very little overlap between the two businesses and there would be no job losses. Tempus, page 30

stake, netting £1.8 billion. It was not only the size of the deal — 246 million shares that stunned the market but also the price at which Veba de-

cided to exit. The shares closed Priday night at 830%p but it emerged in early morning trading that Veba had decided to sell its holding at more than £1 less, at 724.4p, a massive 12 per cent discount. News of the deal saw C&W lose 10 per cent of their value by the end of the day. closing at 75lp, down 79½p, and taking about £2 billion off

the company's market value. The deal and its price badly hit other telecoms stocks, with Telewest, the cable company, off by nearly 8 per cent and Colt Telecom, the advanced data group, down by over 5 per cent. British Telecom

shares fell by 26½p to £10.58. The FTSE 100, which fell by 122 points at one stage, recovered to finish the day at 6.206.8, a net loss of 75.4 In an operation that began

with market briefings at 7am and involved all of ABN Amro's salesforce, working in co-operation with Cazenove, the block of 246 million shares was sold on to a wide range of institutions both in the UK and abroad at 735p a share. making the brokers a gross profit of 10.8p per share.

A significant proportion of the shares were sold within ten minutes of the market opening and the transaction was completed within two hours. ABN Amro won the assignment following a competitive tender among securines

The size of the discount shocked some City analysts. given the recent strength of

telecommunications stocks. VEBA, however, said that its' timing was precise because it said that it fears telecommuni-

cations companies are too highly rated. It added that it was "very, very important" to the company to sell the shares in a single package because if it split the sale, it might not get so good a price if it were to sell a second tranche later in the The company says it accept-ed the inevitable discount in-

volved in selling such a large holding in a single transaction. ABN Amro, in turn, took the risk that it would be able to sell such a large stake before anything unexpected happened to the market.

Veba bought its 10.2 per cent stake for DM2.5 billion in early 1995 as part of its alliance with C&W designed to tackle jointly both the German market in particular, and continental Europe in general.

Changes of management

over time at C&W led to a change in strategy, with the London-based company's priorities being given over to the development of its British operations into Cable & Wireless Communications, the cable group created by merging Mercury Communications and three cable groups. "Since the dissolution of the

alliance in the spring of 1997, Veba has viewed its shareholding as a financial investment that has shown extremely positive development," the German company said. Veba said it received more than DM5.1 billion, which means its return is more than double its original investment.

> Commentary, page 29 Stock market, page 30



Eurotunnel shares hit three-year high after profit boost

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY AND FRASER NELSON

SHARES of Eurotunnel climbed above 100p for the first time in almost three years yesterday as the debt-laden Channel Tunnel operator said its operating profit has trebled.

The shares added 3p to 1011/2p - more than double the 45½p low set in April last year. They are now ranked among the top 25 best-performers in London over the past 12 months. City analysts said the rise in the shares — which be-gan trading at 244p when it floated in December 1987 has been driven by hope that its financial restructuring is

proving a success. It recently negotiated a £4.4 billion debt-for-equity swap which left a £279 million exceptional gain from financial restructuring over 1998.

Patrick Ponsolle, executive chairman, warned the City that passenger numbers will fall this year when it is forced to put up ticket prices to cover the revenue that will be lost when duty-free shopping is abolished in the summer.

However, he predicted that this drop would be temporary. It expects additional income to be generated by large shopping centres that are being created on both sides of the Channel. Eurotunnel made £195 mil-

lion (£130 million) in retail sales for 1998 — making 32 per cent of group total. which jumped 26 per cent to £666 million. Before £378 million of debt repayments, operating profit was £184 million (£57 million) for 1998. The £279 million of exceptional profit from the refinancing left a £64 million net profit. Underlying losses were reduced to £215 million (£61) million).

M Ponsolle said operating performance had grown more truickly than expected but conceded that 1999 would be a year of "transition". He argued that the increase in fares should not adversely affect growth because fares had, in fact, fallen substancially since the launch of rail services.

Business Today



Anatole Kaletsky on Germany's economic U-turn

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London close \$289.95 (\$291.55) denotes madday trading prices Exchange rates _____Page 28

Nationwide to | DuPont buys | German policy offer euro loan GM seed firm under attack

BY CAROLINE MERRELL

NATIONWIDE, the UK's big-that mortgage costs would rise gest building society, is to launch the first mortgage where the interest paid is linked to the European Central Bank rate.

Interest is set at 1.75 per cent above the ECB rate, giving a rate of 4.75 per cent, but borrowers will also benefit from a 1 per cent discount in the first year. The monthly interest pay-

ments on a £50,000 mortgage at 4.75 per cent are £186. On a standard Halifax mortgage, where the interest is currently 6.95 per cent, the monthly interest payments are E271. However, Halifax does offer a two-year, 2 per cent discount loan that matches the Nation-

wide rate. Borrowers do not have to repay the Nationwide mortgage in euros, as it will operate in sterling. In the past, mortgages that took advantage of low interest rates in Europe were linked to a particular currency. The borrower took the risk

if sterling devalued.

The loan, which will be

available from March 24, will set the link with the ECB rate for ten years. There will be a penalty fee for early redemption. For the first five years of the mortgage, the penalty is set at nine months interest; after that the redemption penalty begins to fall away.

Nationwide refused to give details about how it was able to offer the rate. It said that it had hedged against any unexpecied currency fluctuations between the euro and sterling. The society said it had made only limited funds available, so the mortgages will be availa-

ble to those who meet the socie-

ty's lending criteria on a firstcome, first-served basis. The Government is committed to joining the European single currency in principle but has ruled it out during this Parliament. It has pledged a referendum on the issue.

1988 1989 1990 1991 1992 1993 1994 1995

By CARL MORTISHED, INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS EDITOR

DUPONT, the US chemical company, has raised the stakes in the competition for leadership in genetically modified crops with a \$7.7 billion (£4.75 billion) takeover of the

world's largest seed business. DuPont, which is rapidly transforming itself from a chemicals to life sciences group, is buying the outstanding 80 per cent of Pioneer Hi-Bred for \$7.7 billion. DuPont acquired a fifth of the company, which is based in Des Momes, Iowa, in January last year for \$1.7 billion and established a joint venture. Optimum Quality Grains, to devel-

op the new business. The investment by DuPont maintains the frenzied pace of billion-dollar acquisitions in the seeds sector by agribusiness and biotech companies. The investment provides further evidence that the controversy in Europe over GM foods is not deterring major agribusiness firms from pour-

ing money into the business. Seed companies such as Pio-neer, which last year introduced 37 corn hybrids, are seen by some as vital to the success of any investment in ge-netically engineered crops. They provide the geneplasm in which new traits, such as resistance to insects or disease, can be incorporated, as well as

distribution for the new crops. Charles Holliday, chair-man of DuPont, said that the deal would create a businss with \$5 billion in sales, enabling Dupont "to speed new products to market". Charles Johnson, chairman of Pioneer, said: "Crop genetics of-fers tremendous potential for meeting the needs of farmers, agriculture and consumers around the world."

DuPont will have invested a total of \$9.4 billion in Pioneer on completion. The seed company had sales last year of \$1.8 billion and net income of \$270 million.

By Alasdair Murray, economics correspondent

EUROPEAN UNION finance ministers yesterday called on Germany to take tougher action to control its budget, giving warning that its economy is highly vulnerable to a fur-ther slowdown in growth. In the first Ecofin meeting

since the resignation of Oskar finance ministers wasted little time in launching an attack on the policies closely associated with the former German Finance Minister.

Ministers described the German deficit reduction plans as "too modest", claiming that the country is over-reliant on achieving a rapid return to economic growth.

The EU also delivered a

clear message to Herr Lafontaine's successor, Hans Eichel, that he should not persist with plans to encourage inflation-busting pay deals. The finance ministers instead agreed that Germany needed "moderate wage developments and struc-

tural policies" to fight unem-

ployment Rodrigo Rato, the Spanish Finance Minister, added that the European Commission was likely to revise down its 1999 forecast for growth across the euro zone to about 2 per cent from 2.6 per cent. However, Señor Rato insisted that there are signs "which point to a recovery in the European economy in the second half of this year".

The warnings, however, failed to dent the euro, which enjoyed a firm day's trading on the foreign exchanges, making modest gains against both the pound and the dollar.

The euro climbed back to \$1.0935 — close to the level reached in the immediate aftermath of the resignation of Herr Lafontaine. The euro also firmed against the pound, climbing from 66.98p to 67.49p, while the pound lost more than a cent against the dollar to close at \$1.6216.

GRE quits HQ after 200 years

GUARDIAN Royal Exchange is poised to leave its beadquarters at the Royal Exchange buildings in London's financial district, one of the City's most famous landmarks (Marianne

Curphey writes).
The building, in which GRE has been based for more than 200 years, could fetch up to £200 million, according to some analysts. A sale of the whole premises is unlikely, however. while other tenants, including State Street Bank of the United States, are happy to remain there. The Royal Exchange freehold is held by the City of London Corporation and the Mer-

cers Company.

Axa, the biggest insurance company in the world, won control of GRE after making a £3.5 billion bid last mooth.

A number of other insurers. incloding the Prudential, are finding that their grandiose offices are no longer suitable for the new technology and trading systems required.

Commentary, page 29

Oui.

4.99% (5.3% APR) fixed to 31/3/2002.

John Charcol, to European - style UK mortgage rates.

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Microsoft alliance targets Net users

FROM ANDREW BUTCHER IN NEW YORK

MICROSOFT is joining forces with Hewlett-Packard, Intel and Nortel to develop new products to enable office telephone networks to handle both voice and data communications. There is fierce competition among

technology companies trying to cre-

ate new products that link the Inter- out products and capabilities to allow net, voice transmissions and data communications.

John Roth, the chief executive officer of Nortel, said products devised by the new partnership will incorporate voice with Internet Protocol, the standard by which data is carried on most computer networks. Mr Roth said: This is really about bringing business customers to take full advantage of the Web for electronic commerce in ways that any one company

could not do." By sharing product information, the alliance will have a critical advantage over competitors who are also trying to make business on the Internet easier. At present, the private branch exchang-

es, or PBXs, that direct voice and fax network. Windows NT has been under calls in many businesses are not compatible with data transmissions.

Two new products were exhibited by Hewlett-Packard and Nortel at a briefing in San Jose, California, yesterday. The products will be designed to run on Microsoft's Windows NT software, a program that allows many computers within a single business to operate as a pressure amid delays in delivering a software upgrade and competition

from the free Linux network program. The announcement follows an earlier alliance that aims to make the Internet accessible by voice over a telephone line. That group, which includ-ed British Telecom, is developing voice-recognition software.

Sales of homes building at Bovis

By ADAM JONES

THE recent revival in housebuilding shares was given fresh momentum yesterday when Bovis Homes said that sales in the first two months of 1999 were up on the same period of 1998.

Bovis said that low inflation. low interest rates and rising earnings were helping to offset the slowdown in the UK economy. The number of reserva-tions in January and February was up more than 10 per cent. and selling prices were about 2 per cent higher. Malcolm Harris, chief exec-

utive, expects prices to rise by

Burford eyes up Europe

BURFORD HOLDINGS. the property company, hinted yesterday that an acquisition programme will see it looking for developments on the Continent (Robert Lea writes).

European deals may be aimed at adding to its fledgeling hotels joint ven-ture with the New York hotelier Ian Schrager. The company, which also said yesterday that it is lobbying for the paving over of London's Piccadilly, an-nounced pre-tax profits of £26.6 million (£24.7 million) for 1998. The total dividend rises 9 per cent to 2.5p per

4 per cent over the course of sales rising from 2,303 homes to about 2.500. The shares rose from 261%p to 273%p at the close of trading.

Bovis was reporting a 21 per cent increase in 1998 profits, which rose from £37.3 million in 1997 to £45 million, even though sales dropped from £248.9 million to £234.3 million. Mr Harris said that this had been achieved by adding extra features on homes, such as electronic garage doors and "farmhouse" kitchens, and keeping in-creases in the cost of building to minimum through greater standardisation.

However, Mr Harris complained that Bovis was still encountering planning delays, both on brownfield sites land which has had a former use — and virgin, greenfield land. He said that the process for appealing against plan-ning decisions needed to be accelerated.

Bovis now has enough plots with planning consent in reserve to cover the next four years, based on 1998 sales rates. However, Mr Harris estimated that only one third of its reserve sites were brownfield, even though the Government is pushing for house-builders to build 60 per cent of all new homes on recycled land. In 1998 just 34 per cent of Bovis's production was on brownfield land, up from 30 per cent in the previous year.

Adjusted earnings per share rose from 22.8p to 27.6p. A final dividend of 6.67p per share will make a total of 10p for the year.

Tempus, page 30 es would be announced next push losses to £22 million for



Plan of campaign: Malcolm Harris, chief executive of Bovis, said that the housebuilder was encountering planning delays

Managers could leave Kalon

BY MARTIN BARROW

SENIOR managers of Kalon Group could leave the UK

paints company if a proposed £500 million takeover by Total The managers are unhappy

at the prospect of losing their indepedence if the French oil

ASW, the steelmaker based in

Cardiff. is to cut 300 jobs as it

merges operations with Co-

Steel, the Sheerness steel pro-

ducer it bought in December.

Graham Mackenzie, the

new chief executive, who is

also director-general of the En-

gineering Employers Federa-tion, said that more plans to

cut costs between the business-

company, which already owns 63 per cent of Kalon, goes ahead with plans to buy in the outstanding shares. Total's interest is the legacy

of a 1995 deal in which Kalon merged with Euridep, Total's paints arm. Kalon has continued to operate as an autonomous business and directors

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT.

month ASW bought Co-

Steel's Sheerness operation, a

division of the Canadian com-

pany Co-Steel, for £40 million

with the backing of Candover,

the venture capital company.

Candover now owns 45.1 per

ASW saw its losses mount

last year as poor steel prices

and overcapacity helped to

cent of the new business.

are keen to retain the separate listing.
Total's decision to buy out

Kalon's minority investors follows last year's agreement to merge with Petrolina to form one of Europe's largest oil companies. The enlarged Total will also own about 80 per cent of

the year to December 31, com-

pared with a loss of £5.8 mil-

lion in the previous year. However, Mr Mackenzie

said that there were signs of

price improvements for the

.The loss per share climbed

to 26.4p from 6.9p and again

there was no final dividend.

coming months.

paints business with about £700 million of sales, Kalon had hoped that Sigma would be re-versed into the British company, creating one of Europe's largest paints businesses.

Today the company is likely to report a 16 per cent fall in 1998 underlying pre-tax profits to about £38 million.

ASW to shed 300 staff in Beckett to set out 'bug' wake of Co-Steel merger compliance

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

tables

MARGARET BECKETT, Leader of the Commons, will today set out league tables of how government departments and public services are faring in the race to make their computers millennium compliant. She will warn poor performers that time is running out.

Research by the Government into its own action and that of local authorities and public bodies shows that some pro-

grammes have slipped.

Mrs Beckett will say that there should be a greater use of independent assessment to check that programmes are on course — a move she will also press oo businesses. She said: There can be a bit of a reality gap between those who think they are ready and those who

actually are." The Government wants business to ensure the compliance of small companies - the sector which is the least prepared for the millennium - by pressing all companies to insist that their suppliers prove

Warning after Laporte rise

BY PAUL ARMSTRONG

LAPORTE, the niche chemicals group, has fought off difficult market conditions to report a 3 per cent rise in pre-tax profit to £134 million for 1998. The result was slightly ahead

EXCHANGE RATES

of market expectations, but Laporte shares fell 31p to 626p amid forecasts of a flat 1999. Jim Leng, chief executive, gave warning that Laporte ex-pected no help this year from

the major economies in which A second interim dividend

of 17.25p was declared, taking the year's payout to 26.5p (25.750).

Nissan shares rise over Renault talk

SHARES in Nissan, the Japanese carmaker, rose sharply yesterday amid speculation that Renault, the French manufacturer, is on the point of buying more than a third of its capital. Sources in Paris and Tokyo said the French company was pre-pared to pay at least £f.7l billion for a stake of between 34 and 40 per cent in its ailing Japanese counterpart. The two groups would together form the world's fourth-biggest car manufacturer with combined annual sales of 4.5 million vehicles.

Louis Schweitzer, Renault's chairman, met Yoshikazu Hanawa, the Nissan chairman, in Paris at the weekend. Their meeting sourred shares in Nissan, which recouped the 12 per cent loss incurred last week after the breakdown of talks with DaimlerChrysler, the German group that had also been interested in a stake. Renault is holding a board meeting today and analysts in Paris expect an announcement afterwards. The Japanese company has debts of £22 billion.

Celtic appointment

ALIAN MACDONALD, the managing director of BAe in Asia and Africa, is leaving to become the chief executive of Celtic, the Scottish Premier League forball club. The move follows the appointment of Frank O'Callaghan, the hotelier, as chairman. The two will assume the day-to-day running of the company from Fergus McCann, the Scottish Canadian financier who saved Celtic from ruin and now wants to sell out. Mr McCann has rejected a bid approach from a consorti-um led by Kenny Dalglish and Jim Kerr.

Robert H Lowe in red

SEVERE problems within Robert H Lowe's sportswear division left the company with a pre-tax loss of £3.4 million in the year to October 31, compared with a profit of £4.1 million in the previous year. Turnover rose from £421 million to £44.5 million. With a loss per share of 2.34p (earnings of 2.76p) there will be no final dividend, meaning that there is no dividend payment for 1998. The company suffered the loss of adidas as a customer last year, causing the loss of 300 jobs. It said, however, that its packaging division should offer a "solid performance" this year.

Premiums warning

THE UK's largest insurers are poised to impose double-digit increases in insurance premiums in order to recover the costs of underwriting losses, restructuring and merger activities and provide better returns to shareholders, according to the British Investment and Insurance Brokers Association (BIIBA). Consumers renewing their insurance policy should not accept raised premiums as standard, BIIBA says, but should check with a broker to see if a cheaper al-

Bell plans flotation

BELL SECURITY, the high-tech alarms and surveillance business, aims to raise up to £21 million with a flotation on the London stock market, the company announced yesterday. Bell, which plans to sell up to 30 per cent of its equity, is expecied to be valued at about £70 million. Bell specialises in installing and maintaining intruder detection systems, closedcircuit television, fire alarms and systems for controlling site and building access. The group reported pre-tax profits of £3.8 million in 1998 on sales of 34.1 million.

Benchmark on the up

BENCHMARK GROUP, the Central London property investment and development company, lifted net asset value to 247.3p a share from 197.3p in the six months to December 31. At the pre-tax level, profits fell to £8 million from £8.7 million. Net rental income was £10.5 million, compared with £10.3 million in the first half of the previous year. During the first halfof the year, the company raised £49.5 million by way of an issue of unsecured loan stock. The interim dividend is lifted to 1.75p a share from 1.65p.

Lavendon improves

SHARES of Lavendon Group rose 25p to 330p yesterday after the powered access rental company reported a 52 per cent rise in 1998 pre-tax profits to 67 million. Earnings were 20.64p a share, up 28 per cent over 1997. The total dividend rises 20 per cent to 4.7p a share, with a 3.2p final. David Price, chairman and chief executive, said that he expected the company to increase market share again in 1999. Operating margins would benefit as the depot network, including 20 new branches, became better established. Lavendon shares peaked at 545p last year.

Ruberoid shares slide

SHARES of Ruberoid fell 6p to 93p yesterday after the waterproofing systems and protective coatings company, proposed an unchanged dividend of 6.1p a share for 1998. Pre-tax profits from continuing operations rose to £7.5 million from £6.5 million during a year of restructuring, when a lengthy disposal programme was completed. Adjusted earnings improved to 9.9p a share from 8.7p. The board has declared a second interim dividend of 4.2p a share. David Kendall, chairman, said that the company would make further progress in 1999.

Spirax lifts dividend

SPIRAX-SARCO, the engineering company, is lifting the total dividend for the year to December 31, 1998, to 16.5p a share from 15.8p, in spite of an 11 per cent fall in underlying pre-tax profits to £42.3 million. In addition, there was an exceptional charge of EIL6 million to cover relocation of the company's US plant, reducing 1998 pre-tax profits to £30.64 million from £47.7 million and earnings to 24.1p a share from 38.3p. Turnover of £249 million compared with £265.6 million previously. The final dividend is II.5p a share.

Our stockholders are hereby invited to attend the

Annual Stockholders' Meeting

to be held on Friday, April 30, 1999 at 10.00 a.m. in the Congress Half (Hall 8) of the Exhibition Center (Messe) in Cologne-Deutz, Germany.

Agenda

- Submission of the confirmed Financial Statements of Bayer AG and the Bayer Group, the combined Management Report of Bayer AG and the Bayer Group, and the Report of the Supervisory Board for 1998; resolution on distribution of the profit
- 2. Ratification of the actions of the Board of Management
- 3. Ratification of the actions of the Supervisory Board
- 4. Conversion of the capital stock and the authorized capital to the euro currency; amendment to the Articles of Incorporation
- 5. Capital increase out of capital reserves to round the amount per share in euros; amendment lo the Articles of Incorporation
- 6. Authorization to issue convertible bonds and/or bonds with warrants attached; creation of conditional capital and amendment to the Articles of Incorporation
- 7. Remuneration of the Supervisory Board; amendment to Article 10 of the Articles of incorporation
- 8. Authorization to repurchase
- 9. Appointment of auditors

Copies of the Company's Annual Report for 1998 in English will be available from SBC Warburg Dillon Read.

United Kingdom Shareholders who wish to attend and vote at the Annual General Meeting should by 22nd April, 1999, inform SBC Warburg Dillon Read, Paying Agency, 1 Finsbury Avenue, London EC2M 2PP, who will make the necessary arrangements on their behalf.

The complete version of the Invitation to the Annual Stockholders' Meeting, containing the texts of the proposed resolutions, will be found in the Bundesanzeiger No. 51 of March 16, 1999. Please refer to this publication for further details of the Agenda and the conditions for attending the Meeting.

Under Section 125 of the German Companies Act, the Board of Management is only obliged to provide information on proposals and nominations that may be made by shareholders if the parties concerned prove their standing as shareholders in good time.

Leverkusen, Germany March 16, 1999

The Board of Management of Bayer Aktiengeselfschaft Dr. Schneider Wenning

Glanbia chief attacks milk price

BY CARL MORTISHED, INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS EDITOR directly from farmers will rise to

MILK PRICES in the UK under investigation by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. are too high because of Milk Marque's auction process, according to the managing-direc-tor designate of Glanbia, the Irish foods group.
"There has to be a better way

of doing it, a more transparent auctioning of milk," said Ned Sullivan, who added that the amount of British milk it takes

more than half its total in 1999. Cost-savings in the year to January 2 from a reorganisation enabled Glanbia, formerly Avonmore Waterford, to raise pre-tax, pre-exceptional profits by 25 per cent to Ir £75 million (£64 million) on sales down almost 3 per cent to Ir£2.3 billion. Glanbia is rais-

ing the total dividend by 9 per

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the about the recessions by FFFs at a reclaimed rate of 10% Both capital and memore ratures may go down as well as up and you may not per back the amount you towered. The exchange rate variations may chose the value of overview towerments to increase or observate Full written details are available on request and statements are current as at 01,05%. The Conventment have auto-ancient their constructions can only be made to FIPs made April 1999 Funch that date a new tox presinged savings webside, the backward savings to their first that a first a series of the 1999 Funch that date a new tox presinged savings webside, the backward savings become IFAs well be reclaimed to Fight on the Control Control United Explained to English Court. If Queen Vervita Street, London E.A. 179 Representative only of the Legal & General marketing group, members of which are regulated by the Fernanti Inconsument Anthority and DRBO to the proposes of precumentating, advising on and setting the accumination, advising on and setting the procumentation.

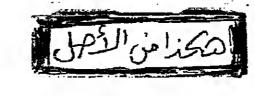
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OFT has hourble the leave a look cultural transfer to the second

emanates from the company. The tunnel is now increasing its business, both in freight and passenger numbers. Patrick Ponsolle reckons that he can travel from Paris to London in two hours and 40 minutes, even if oththe journey quite so speedy. Eurostar still offers a remarkably fast, and comfortable, route from city centre to city centre. If the financial debacle of Eurotunnel's beginnings can be seen to city centre. beginnings can be put to one side, it is a remarkable achieve-

But investors do not easily forgive companies for financial incompetence even if they demon-strate engineering excellence. Eu-rotunnel has had to go through a period of rehabilitation. The share price indicates that it is now close to being allowed a fresh start. The indications now are that it will be more than able to cover its interest bill by 2003, and profits should flow swiftly

from then on.
The loss of duty-free sales will cause less of a dent to its numbers than to the ferry operators, although it will be used to ex-plain an increase in fares. The company has high hopes that BAA, with all its experience of persuading air travellers to part with far more cash than they had intended to, while they browse

Tunnel hides bushel under a light

through the departure lounge, will be able to work the same trick at either end of the tunnel.

But how else does a tunnel owner maximise its income? M Ponsolle and his colleagues are now giving some thought as to where Eurotunnel goes from here. Running optical fibre through the tunnel was an obvious first add-on to its main business but then what? Only a very brave individual would risk talking aloud about digging a second tunnel at this delicate phase in the company's rapprochement with the investment community.

There may be a stage when a second tunnel does make economic sense: the lessons of the first should make construction costs rather more containable. But that time is far off.

So what else can Eurotunnel offer by way of growth prospects? It is a genuine Anglo-French company, which is a rarity. Would there be takers for consultancy services on how this unlikely combination can be made to work in the new Europe? Probably a very limited market, at least unless and until Britain embraces the euro.

Then what scope is there for selling other services to Eurotunnel users? There are many of them who are now regular cus-



COMMENTARY by our City Editor

tomers. Some, it must be concluded, are travelling back from France with their vans packed with booze and cigareties, of which the Chancellor would not approve. Eurotunnel would like to be able to help to curb the smugglers: they tend to upset other passengers. But if the other regulars might be in the mood to buy financial services or language lessons, Eurotunnel may be in the market to supply them.

Fortune favours the brave in C&W deal

The City is not just a casino but it does reward those prepared to take risks — if they make the right call. For just a few hours, ABN Amro and Cazenove were the owners of a tenth of Cable & Wireless. They bought the shares and gambled that they would be able to sell them at a higher price, and fast. They succeeded in doing just that and their rewards are huge: even Bill Gates would goggle at £27

million being earned so rapidly.
But the players should not be begrudged their winnings. Bought
deals are notoriously difficult to do, and this was a mammoth one. For ABN Amro's Nick Bannister, his brief spell as a Cable & Wireless shareholder was akin to swimming with sharks. Less adventurous characters

than he still quake at the recollection of a 1990 transaction that guaranteed bought deals their scary status. Kleinwort Benson agreed to relieve Burmah Oil of a troublesome stake in Premier Consolidated Oil. The firm bought the £138 million stake at 99p a share, hoping to turn it rapidly at 103p. But takers were there none. Eventually, Kleinwort had to settle for selling at just 78p. taking a £34 million hit. The resignation of Charles Hue Williams, then in charge of the bank's securities division, soon

followed. It was said that City rivals ob-jected to the margin Kleinwort intended to make on the deal. ABN and Cazenove cut their price less greedily but, because of the dis-count to the market price, they ensured that, barring an interna-tional catastrophe, they would get the stock away.

International catastrophes do happen, but rarely. Had yesterday been the day that Microsoft revealed a secret plan for taking over the entire telecoms scene it just might have been enough to throw out the bank's most care-

ful calculations. But it did not. Veba was happy to take its profit on the shares and leave something for the next man. Apart from the tidy profit for ABN and Cazenove, that also means an in-stant uplift for those who took the C&W shares from them. Although C&W took an instant hit, the price is still well above the 735p at which the institutions bought yesterday, and the chances are that it will quickly recover much of yesterday's fall.

Veba put the deal out for tender, so we can conclude that other bouses were even more cautious in their pricing than ABN. For Mr Bannister, winning the man-

date, and successfully concluding the deal, represents a huge milestone in his efforts to reposition the bank. This was effectively a European deal conducted through European houses: not the mighty bulge bracket Ameri-can investment banks which usually dominate the scene.

Life's a beach for captains of industry

usiness life can be almost B as tough as politics.
While poor John Prescott has been having to cope with the rigours of a 12-day visit to In-dia and the Maldives, so have a group of wage slaves from the private sector.

The Government takes the view that when ministers ven-ture overseas, it makes sense for them to be accompanied by a retinue of businessmen. In theory. the aim is to help to drum up much-needed export business. Who could blame the politicians if they did not also harbour the wish to drag a few fat cats away from their comfortable offices to experience the sacrifices that our

leaders are prepared to make? Those who accompanied the Deputy Prime Minister on this visit have been forced to endure

nights in luxury hotels and is-land-hopping on a vast cruiser. They have been subjected to the discomfort of a helicopter trip to the Taj Mahal. They have seen the pugilistic Mr Prescott battling for Britain, confronting tigers and coral reefs, if not trade barriers. coral reefs, if not trade barriers.

No doubt the businessmen have been duly impressed. It they took their cameras along, perhaps they could show the photographs to liven up the next annual meeting. Shareholders in Anglan Water. National Grid and BC would curely be thrilled and BG would surely be thrilled at the chance to share, if only on celluloid, the experiences of the executives they each sent lo accompany Mr Prescott.

Details of the contracts that

have been won as a result of the expedition might come later -much, much later.

Royally appointed

WHO WILL BE the next inhabitants of the splendid Royal Exchange building in the heart of the Square Mile? It has been judged surplus to requirements by the new owners of Guardian Royal Exchange: its layout is not ideal for a modern finance house and its status as a listed building makes that hard to change. Business-like banks would rather head to Canary Wharf. Yet for a chairman keen to impress. Royal Exchange will have its attractions. If a fountain in the foyer or a new Roller for the boss signal danger, beware the organisation that heads to Royal Exchange.

Buyback plan hits **Tomkins**

By Paul Armstrong

engineering conglomerate. fell 10p to 2241/2p yesterday after the company unveiled a £417.5 million plan to buy back up to 15 per cent of its

Analysts blamed the drop on Tomkins's admission that it had failed to find suitable acquisitions in the past year, making the buyback its most attractive option.

Tomkins has asked shareholders to offer stock at prices between 220p and 250p. The company will set a final price when the tender closes on April 16, the day shareholders will vote on the scheme.

The tender range represents a premuum of up to 21.4 per cent over the middle market price of 206p on Thursday, a day before Tomkins revealed its buyback intentions. Tomkins also said yesterday that it would sell its UK

and US mowing, snowblowing and bicycle interests. It refused to reveal the carrying value of these businesses.

But it plans to retain Smith & Wesson, the gunmaker which is the subject of legal ac-

SHARES in Tomkins, the tion in the US for alleged negligence.

Tomkins spent £741 million on bolt-on acquisitions and £88 million on share buybacks in the year to May 2,

But Greg Hutchings, executive chairman, said yesterday that the group had been unable to repeat this in the past year despite having studied more potential purchases than ever before.

Mr Hutchings said none of the prospective acquisitions would have generated sufficient returns.

A stated lack of suitable purchases, combined with the cheap price of debt relative to equity, has ruelled a surge ir share buybacks across many sectors in recent months.

Guy Hewett, an analyst with Charterhouse Securities. has forecast that Tornkins will report earnings per share of 23.6p for the year to May 1,

This puts the company on a prospective multiple of just 9.5 times, reflecting the market's dislike of its diversified asset portfolio.

Fairey's ten-year hitch

By ADAM JONES

SHARES in Fairey, the electronics group, slumped nearly 10 per cent after profits fell for the first time in ten years.

The impact of the Asian financial crisis, which led to overcapacity in the semiconductors market, was worse than Fairey expected. Head-line profits for 1998 rose from £52.2 million to £67.2 million, but only because Fairey made an exceptional profit of nearly £37 million on the sale of its aerospace business. Underlying profit fell 41 per cent to £34.2 million.

Fairey was forced to make 11 per cent of its staff redundant during the year, at a cost of £1.5 million. It said it was "cautious" about short-term prospects, with demand unlikely to improve before the latter part of the year. Normalised earnings per share fell from 35.7p to 21.7p. A dividend of 7.3p will be paid, making a total of 10.5p for the year, up 5 per cent.

Rockware sold to Ardagh

By Fraser Nelson

ARDAGH, the Irish packaging and containers company, has become the second-largest player in Britain's glass market after paying £247 million for Rockware in a sale forced by EU competition officials. After eight months of talks.

it has agreed terms to buy Rockware from Owens-Illinois, the American company which bought BTR's glass and packaging arm for £2.2

billion just over a year ago. Owens-Himois was ordered to sell Rockware because it already controlled 35 per cent of the UK glass market through its United Glass subsidiary. Rockware has a 31 per cent share. Ardagh said that there would be no factory closures at either Knottingley and Doncaster, which employ about 1.000 workers. Owens-Illinois recently decided close its Merseyside factory at the cost of 400 jobs - blaming overcapacity in the industry.

Abbey subsidiary loan pursuit in OFT action

By CAROLINE MERRELL

THE Office of Fair Trading is suing an Abbey National subsidiary over a clause in its unsecured loan agreement that allows it to charge interest to customers that have been to court because they cannot keep up

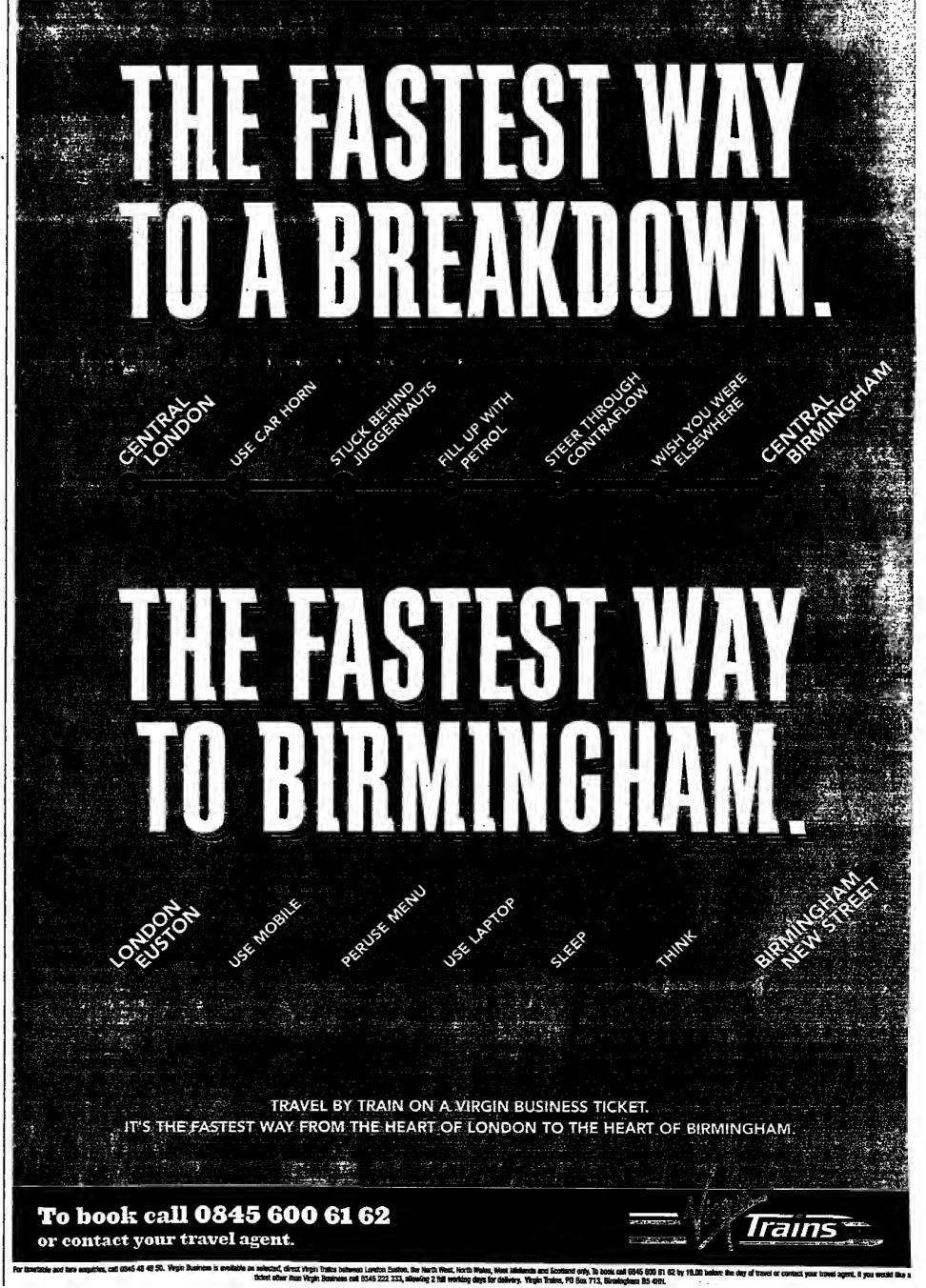
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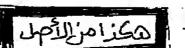
could have implications for

their repayments. The landmark case, the first the OFT has bought under the 1994 Unfair Terms in Consum-

many lenders. The preliminary hearing tomorrow is against First National, a subsidiary of Abbey National. Loans offered by First Nation-

al average £4,000. Under the terms of its consumer contract, the lender reserves the right to charge its borrowers interest. even if a court has agreed a sum for a borrower to pay off the outstanding debt. First Nadonal is defending the action.





deal would be damaging to its business and put on hold ranonalisation at this crucial stage in the industry's development.

First Choice and Kuoni, meanwhile, have al-most no overlaps. This has the advantage of lit-

tle risk of referral but the disadvantage of al-

share price, they are on a far higher rating

than when the bid rumours started flying. It still lags behind Airtours, which is rated on

about 19 times 1999 earnings compared with

First Choice's 15 times, but Airtours is favoured by investors for its strong, entrepre-

The structure of the deal means that First

Choice and Kuoni will still have the resources

to join-in further industry consolidation. The

Even after yesterday's fall in First Choice's

lowing few cost savings.

neurial management.

shares are worth holding on to.



Telecoms undermined by Veba's C&W sell-off

VEBA'S sale of its 10.2 per cent stake in Cable & Wireless com-bined to undermine the telecom sector and starve the rest

of the equity market of funds. The 246.19 million shares in C&W were bought jointly by brokers ABN Amro and Cazenove at 724p. They later sold them on to institutions at 735p. netting a profit of £27 million.

The sale was oversubscribed. One broker applied for about £300,000 of stock and was subscribed less than 15 per cent. C&W finished 79½p down at 75lp on turn-over of 528.58 million shares. That compares with total turnover for the market of 1.49 billion shares.

Telecom stocks slipped as funds were drained out of the system and institutions began adjusting their weightings in the sector. Telewest, reporting later today, fell 201/p to 2431/p. There were also losses for COLT Telecom, 51p to 939p. Secoricor, 17p to 5314p. Cable & Wireless Communications, 29p to 699p, Orange, 19%p to 898%p, and British Telecom, 26%p to £10.58.

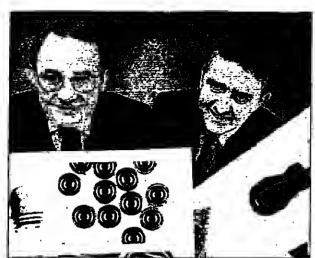
What with this and Friday's disappointing turn out on Wall Street, the rest of the equity market experienced a diffi-cult session. Prices, however, managed to close above their worst levels of the day, helped by opening gains for the Dow

The FTSE 100 index down almost 123 points at one stage, eventually reduced the deficit to 75.4 at 6,206.8. The FTSE 250 index also shed 41.9 to

Among blue chips, Reed in ternational rallied 25%p to 5254p after last week's disappointing trading news. ICI, up llp at 547p and WPP, 15p dear-er at 5294p, also finished higher on the day. But there were losses for Standard Chartered, 42½p to 897½p, Hanson, 25½p to 569p and Bass, 38½p to 926½p. First Choice Holidays re-

treated 144p to 173p as the market digested the proposed merger with Kuoni Reisen. Switzerland's package holiday operator, to form a £1.45 bil-lion company. City specula-tors reckon it is unlikely that rivals such as Airtours, up 71/2p to 507%p, will do much to deny Kuoni a free run.

AIM-listed SCi Entertainment was chased 22p higher to company said it knew of no



Jim Leng, chief executive, left, and Michael Kayser, finance director of Laporte, saw shares of the engineer dip 31p to 626p

reason, other than favourable press comment, for the rise. Lynx Group receded 74p to 214p despite news of share buying by several directors. Stew-art Douglas-Mann, chairman, has bought 10,000 at 22lp taking his holding to 20,000, while June de Moller, non executive director, also picked up

104% p after rejecting a takeover approach from an unnamed suitor. The company said the terms would have undervalued the business. Shares of Waste Recycling were suspended at 525p pending an announcement. Microgen Holdings firmed

31/2p to 1231/2p with the help of a "buy" recommendation from Dresdner Kleinwort Benson.

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THE supermarket chains had a mixed session ahead of publication this week of the Office of Fair Trading's inquiry into the prices they

10,000 at 222p.

J Sainsbury firmed 24p to 3474p. Asda 1p to 1454p. Morrisons Supermarkets 6p to 282p, and Somerfield 1½p to 343p. But there were falls for Tesco, 2½p at 162p. and Shoprite, 24p to 204p. Weekend reports suggest

that the report from the OFT will be less swingeing than earlier expectations.

such as Tesco and Asda, recently embarked on a damaging fresb round of price

Lines on selected items were reduced in order to bolster market share. Brokers fear it could have impact on earnings growth. Credit Sulsse First Bos-

ton, the broker, yesterday cut its average earnings growth forecast for the supermarket sector for the year to March 2000, from 7.5 per cent to 4 per cent. It expects the sector to

116 132* 153* 153* 153* 153* 254* 253*

of 260p for the end of 2000. Hopes are high that Quality Products, up 37%p to 492%p, will come up with the goods when it unveils final results on Wednesday week. Brokers say earnings could come in 50 per cent higher accompanied by news of further e-commerce contracts.

Scotia Holdings was also being chased higher ahead of results later this month finishing 5%p dearer at 77p. The market is anxious for a further update of the group's link with General Mills, the food group, to develop its hunger suppres-sant compound. A "buy" rec-ommendation from WestLB Panmure, the broker, was good for a rise of 43p to 5161/pp Shire Pharmaceuticals The broker has also upgraded its pre-tax profit forecast from

El6 million to £20 million. Petra Diamonds was steady at 711/2p after dropping IA Pritchard Stockbrokers as adviser. It has appointed Seymour Pierce instead.

Late news on Friday, that Tracker Network was in talks that could lead to a management buyout, continued to fuel the shares, up 70p to 580p.

Speculation that the Government will give BSkyB the goahead to bid for Manchester United, providing certain conditions are met, lifted the Premiership side 9p to 240p, after touching 245p. BSkyB, 40 per cent owned by News International, owner of The Times. slipped 54p to 5574p.

AIM-listed BATM Ad-

vanced rose 32p to 295p ahead of a series of presentations with brokers and fund managers later this week ☐ GILT-EDGED: Trading in

the bond market was some of the quietest recorded this year. Investors stayed away ahead of this week's stream of economics data that includes retails sales, unemployment, average earnings and the Monetary Policy Committee meet-

In the futures pit, the June series of the long gilt finished un-moved at £116.64 as 13,000 contracts were completed. In longs, Treasury 8 per cent 2021 eased 2p to £145.90 as did Treas-Close
Superscape VR 149
Enterprise 303
Cable Wreless 751
Faiety Group 2931
PSD 2931 ury 7 per cent 2002 on £106.49. were broadly higher as Wall Steet edged towards the 10,000 mark. At midday the Dow

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tax relief on mortgage interest payments last week. housebuilding is too cyclical, a suspicion that was heightened by the recent boom in Axon Group London. With UK growth fal-Enhanced Zero Trust tering, the stocks were then Jupiter En Zero Dv Pf Jupiter Enhanced Inc marked down savagely. believe that low interest rates and low inflation will keep the market steady at least. In this environment, Bovis stands out as something of a blue-chip stock. It has exem-plary profit margins — 19.3 per cent in 1998 at the operating level, against 12.5 per cent elsewhere — and its First Tech Cnv Prl n/p (320) 18 ... Oxford Biomedica n/p (15) 12 + 9 Tand bank" contains a whop-

RISES: Stock Close Chrg Chrg% CALA 157'z + 51'z + 48.5 Vanquard 227'z + 40 + 21.3 UK Land 107'z + 17 + 18.7 UK Land 107'z + 17 + 18.7 Sorric 80 + 10 + 14.2 Psion 860 + 107 + 14.2 Lavendon 340 + 35 + 11.4 Interfor Services 126'z + 11'z + 10.0 Brooks Service 104'z + 9 + 8.4 Shife Pharms 516'z + 43 + 9.0 Torex 187 + 15'z + 8.4 Arndrews Sylvat 170 + 12'z + 7.9 Internet Tech 156 + 11 + 7.5 Lavendor 156 + 11 + 7.5 Lavendor 156 + 11 + 7.5 Lavendor 156 + 15 + 8.5 Takeda Chem 2339'4 + 142'4 + 8.4 Fuji Bank Y 329 + 19'z + 8.3 Kier 242'z + 14 + 6.1 Wetherspoon JD 22'3 + 15'z + 6.0	IT SEEMS the pharma cal chemicals group, thave given the mark overdose of good news this year. After falling sly last year, the stod added 35 per cent since January, mainly becaustrong growth in its keysion of speciality organ But yesterday Laport a slice of this gain desp 1998 profit coming in 5 per cent ahead of market forecasts. Investigations of the proper to believe that
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cently on many of its peers.

ping 4.1 years worth of plots per cent of Bovis homes were with planning consent. per cent of Bovis homes were on recycled land last year. It is also appreciably more upbeat about this year's trading than the bulk of its com-

A choice selection

THE market's reaction to the announcement of the merger of First Choice and Kuoni was hardly flattering, but it was understandable. The fall in the First Choice share price was

mainly attributable to the fading expectation

that Airtours or Preussag, which controls Thomas Cook, will step in with a better offer.

In terms of immediate rewards for share-

holders, there is no doubt that putting First Choice together with either Airtours or Tho-

mas Cook would bring about swift and size-

able cost savings and significant UK market share gains — neither of which are on offer

with the Kuoni deal. It is a moot point wheth-

er the competition authorities in the UK and Europe would allow a deal between First

Choice and its domestic market competitors.

First Choice says that a referral to the MMC

or the European Commission on a domestic

Bovis Homes

INVESTORS have started re-

alising that housebuilding

stocks have been oversold

prompting a revival that has

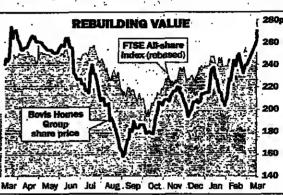
managed to survive Gordon Brown's decision to abolish

The old thinking said that

Investors now appear to

that it is a long way away earnings this year. The from the 60 per cent target set shares may well go higher by John Prescott, the Deputy now that they have the mo-Prime Minister, for brown-mentum that was lacking in field development. Only 34 the sector for so long.

on recycled land last year. harsh will be the punishment for those who fall short Bovis is still trading at One downside is the fact about 8.5 times' predicted germainake U.



so far e early use of

shares have become too expensive in light of the compa-

exposure to Asia and Latin America. While Laporte's electronics division has not . escaped lightly, management has responded by slashing costs, and there appears scope for recovery later this year.

The strong market posi-tion enjoyed by many of the company's chemicals and its healthy profit margins are also reasons for optimism. But most of these attributes upside in the short term.

Beyond then, Laporte is well placed to reap the bene-. fits of its heavy research and development program as well as a strong management team. Buy for the long' about £10 million.

ASW

THE small steelmaker has struggled valiantly to survive. Amid tumbling steel prices and overcapacity, the Cardiff business managed

ing so that it could buy its former rival Co-Steel and become the number two to British Steel. This is no mean feat for a small company because venture capitalists increasingly shun the smaller sector.

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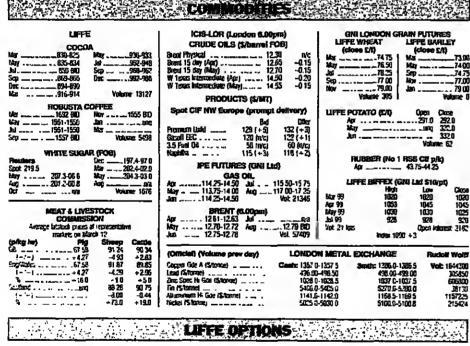
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Merging forces with Co-Steel, the Kent business, will enable the operation to cut some costs and to weather better the lack of demand in its markets. Yesterday we are already factored into the . saw some initial efficiencies share price, leaving limited from the December purchase with the announcement of 300 job losses. There should be more to come. Some have calculated that £24 million of annual costs could come out for a restructuring charge of

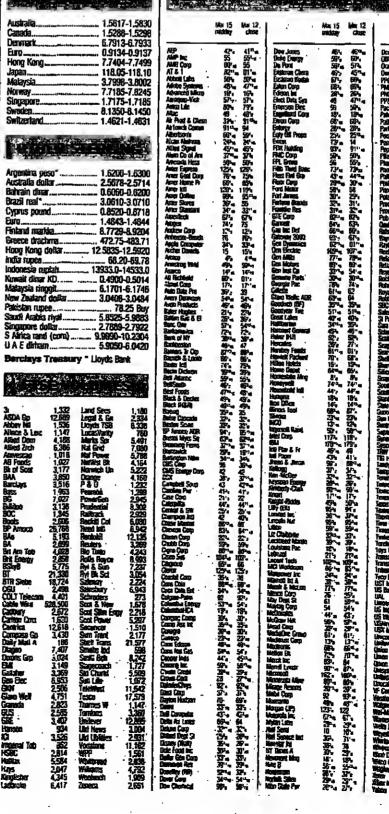
Meanwhile, losses will continue - both the Cardiff and Kent steel production centres are trading at a loss - before ASW turns the corner later this year. Then it should also benefit from an upturn in the steel market.



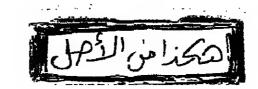
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Have you make of the



ECONOMIC VIEW



Germany is attempting to make U-turn in a cul-de-sac

WHAT'S WRONG WITH THE GERMAN ECONOMY?

Membership of EMU has

cut off the options for a much-needed

devaluation

or socialists and environmentalists around the world, who dreamt of mounting a cha-lenge to the global hegemony of American free-market capitalism, the dream ended last Thursday. It did not end with

the bang of the crashing Berlin Wall or the disintegrating Soviet Union, ft ended with the whimper of the sudden, mysterious resignation of Germa-ny's Finance Minister. Oskar Lafontaine.

Herr Lafontaine's resigna-tion inspired a modest celebration on the Frankfurt stock exchange on Friday. But for once, the financial speculators could be accused of being too calm. A 5 per cent jump in Frankfurt's DAX index and a two cent appreciation of the euro hardly seemed to do jusoce to an event of such historic importance. Most analysts and businessmen are taking the undestandably sceptical view that one man's departure is not going to transform eco-nomic conditions in Germany. still less in the whole of Europe, and therefore that the cautious response seen in the markets since last Thursday is about right. This time, however, a bit more excitement seemed appropriate.

Herr Lafontaine's resignation was a truly historic event, at least comparable to the policy U-turn performed by France in 1983, when President Mitterrand abandoned his attempt to create "socialism in one country" by nationalising the banks and following a Keynesian policy of demand expansion. That U-turn laid the foundation for the European monetary union by creating a strong franc and below the German level, at the cost of a fourfold increase in French unemployment. Mitterrand's decision to abandon socialism also triggered a surge in French share prices that overshadowed even the bull market on Wall Street. Today, the political, economic and financial consequences of Germany abandoning its even flirtation with "socialism in one country" could be every bit as dramatic as those of the French U-turn.

With Herr Lafontaine now not just gone, but completely discredited by his erratic behaviour, this campaign to creare a new economic model that would uffer Europe the benefits of global capitalism without the social upheavals and perceived injustices, will almost certainly collapse. Gerhard Schröder, the German Chancellor, was always un-comfortable with the Lafonraine-Jospin leftist vision and hinted before the German elecrion that he might prefer to form a "grand coalition" with

HOURLY LABOUR COSTS IN MANUFACTURING* US-100 EXPORT PERFORMANCE* % change in ratio of growth of export volumes to growth of export 1991 1992 1993 1995 INFLOWS OF FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT GERMANY E 1986-91 avg Source: UNCTAO World Investment Report 1998 the Christian Democrats, rathin the German business comfoundations laid by the now-

er than building an anti-capitalist alliance with the radical Greens. Now that Herr Schröder has been unexpectedly released from his political obli-gations to the Left of his own party, he is likely to move back to a traditional businesstinguishable from that of Helmut Kohl's Christian Democrats. If anything, his attempts to make the German tax and regulatory systems more favourable to business and investment, are likely to be more successful than those of the Kohl Government. since he will not have to worry about parliamentary obstruction from the Left.

Why, then, is there so much scepticism about whether business conditions in Germany will really move towards the Anglo-Saxon capitalist model? There seem to be three possible

The first is that even in the German business community, which will from now on call the shots in the Schröder Governinent, there are deep worries about the "excesses" of Anglo-Saxon free market economics. Big business in Germany has a strong interest in mainmining regulations, subsidies and lax preferences that protect it from low-cost compedtion. But the balance of opinion

munity is clearly moving away from regulation and towards freer markets. This is a more or less inevitable response to the pressures on German managers from international (mainly American) shareholders and competitors. For this reason, ness in favour of Americanstyle capitalism are bound to intensify and ultimately prevail. The recent demand from directors of DamilerChrysler that their salaries should be partly taxed under the US tax

code is an amusing straw in

the wind.

he second reason for scepticism about a German U-turn is that free market tax reform and deregulation are very long, painful and uncertain processes. It cannot be expected pay off for many years. Even where reform has been pursued with the zeal of a Thatcher or Reagan, it has taken ten to 15 years to deliver posiove results in the form of higher growth and lower unemployment. Herr Schröder thus cannot hope to become a darling of the business community, or indeed of the voters, in the same way as Tony Blair. Mr Blair's policies are popular and economically successful because they are building on the

hated Tories. But Herr Schrö der will have to take responsibility for unpopular Thatcher-ite policies himself.

He will have to resist

strikes, to cut wages, to break

professional and business monopolies, to cut public spendtribute the tax burden from investment and employment on to the income and consumption taxes paid by ordinary voters. Obviously the German Government is unlikely to mover very fast in pursuing such a Thatcherite agen-da, especially if Herr Schrö der is determined to stick to a consensus-based tripartite approach. However, the direcoon of motion should be clear and Germany starts from a much more favourable position than did Britain in 1979. Its labour relations and management are excellent. Many of its industries are strong. Most importantly, Herr Schröder could enjoy a much more favourable macroeconomic environment than the one that faced Margaret Thatcher in 1979 and President Reagan

in 1980. This leads to the third big question about the German Uturn: what affect will it have on macroeconomic policy? The most important problem facing the German economy to-

day is not about regulation, competition or tax reform. It is the macroeconomic problem illustrated in the top chart. Germany's labour costs are far out of line with international competition — 50 per cent above the Amercian and French lev-els and almost twice as high as in Britain, notwithstanding the supposedly overvalued pound. Some of the dire effects of these uncompetitive costs are illus-trated in the charts below. Germany, far from being an export "powerhouse", can no longer hold its own in world markets. In terms of export performance, as measured by the OECD's ratio of export growth to the growth of export markets, Germany has lagged far behind America and signicantly behind the rest of Europe in Il out of the past 13 years (see middle chart). And even the surprisingly weak figures on Germany's export performance have been deceptively flattering. Most of Germany's exports are produced by capitalintensive industries on the basis of costs already sunk into existing factories. When it comes to new investment, Germany's lack of competitiveness is even more striking. This is illustrate ed in the bottom chart, which shows that Germany has received virtually no foreign in-vestment in the last decade. Uniquely among the OECD countries, Germany actually suffered a net outflow of for-

last two years. rom a macroeconomic perspective, all of these figures add up to a simple and clear conclu-Germany desperately needs a devaluation to bring Its costs into line with competitor countries. But herein lies Germany's real economic conundrum. By joining EMU. Germany bas closed off the option of devaluing against France, Italy and the rest of Europe. To make matters worse, it has created a structure that limits inflation in the rest of Europe and therefore makes it impossible for German industry to regain its competitiveness by keeping its inflation signifi-

eign investment in each of the

This leaves Germany with two options: to persuade the whole of Europe to devalue against the dollar, yen and pound; or to shift its industrial structure to rely far more on domestic consumption and non-tradeable services than on exports for future growth. Herr Lafontaine, to his credit, appeared to understand this counsundrum, which was why he pressured so hard for expansionary monetary poli-cies from the European Central Bank. Ironically, of course, the ECB was least likely to deliver these policies under the overt hectoring from Herr Lafontaine.

The most important ques-tion for Germany and Europe today is whether the ECB will move towards and expansionmove towards and expansion-ary policy now that Herr Lafon-taine is gone. If it does, the Ger-man U-turn could turn out to be surprisingly successful. If it does not. Germany and the rest of Europe will be doomed to a period of economic and so-cial dislocation which will con-vince many more Germans vince many more Germans that Herr Lafontaine's forebod ings about free markets and capitalism were right after all.

Why many women are slipping through the Net

eg Ryan may, or may not, be a role model for many women in this country. But, by romancing Tom Hanks across the Internet in her latest film. You've Got Mail, she has shown she has something that 83 per cent of British women do not have. No, I'm not talking about a cute little nose that wrinkles up when she smiles; I'm talking about confidence when purchasing products to access the Internet.

According to a new study by James Murphy, an independ-ent analyst formerly of The Henley Centre, there is a massive gap between women's interest in new technology and their confidence when they

think about buying it.
The study, published this week by marketing services firm Cohn & Wolfe and called Women 8 Technology: the challenge for marketeers, quizzed 1,000 adults, 570 of whom were female. It found that, while 38 per cent of women said they were either quite or very interested in Internet products, only 17 per cent felt confident enough to purchase them. This compares with only 31 per cent of men saying they were interested in Internet access yet 48 per cent saving they would feel confident in buying the services.

This pattern is repeated with personal computers. While 53 per cent of women were interested in buying a PC, only 31 per cent felt they would be happy to go into a shop and buy one. For men 60 per cent were interested in PCs, and 50 per cent said they d be quite happy popping into PC World

So why are there these discrepancies? Do woman naturally find it difficult to choose tween Yahoo and Excite, do they not know their Compags from their Dells or are they confused as to whether they have to throw out their Pentium processors when the Pentium II or Pentium III turns up? Or is it that the IT companies are not taking enough time to communicate with one half of the population?

The evidence that it could be the latter comes from other questions asked by Murphy. For example, 56 per cent of women are interested in buying a mobile phone and 54 per cent would feel confident en appliances - the interest figure is 70 per cent and the confidence figure is 80 per cent. Is there that much difference between buying a PC and

buying a fridge-freezer? The simple fact is that most IT firms do not bother to try to win over the female customer. Most adverts for computer products tend to feature men (interestingly, the IT firms are perhaps more racially aware than almost any other sector, so there is a high proportion of Asian or Afro-Caribbean men featured). They tend to be placed in publications aimed at the men's market - so you might find PC ads in GQ or FHM but you would be lucky if you spotted any in Vogue or

Cosmopolitan. Yet, as Murphy argues: You do not have to be Germaine Greer to spot the sea change in women's profes-sional life, buying power and position in society over the past 15 to 20 years. IT firms might be at the cutting edge in technology, but in their



marketing many are danger ously out of date."

Take the marketing for mobile phones. Nokia has been incredibly successful, partially because it has made its mobile phones a fashion accessory. The latest silver Nokia, which was such a hit over Christmas, is designed to slip into a handbag between a lipstick and a purse.

In computers French compa-

MAKETLEADER

nies have long realised the importance of women in their market - as is shown by the France Telecom advert below which shows a woman in a professional environment rarely shown in the UK. Alcatel has long had a range of different colours and designs for its IT products. Apple is one of the ew computer-makers to start thinking about the look of its products and its new iMac was recently described by a feminist writer as "curvaceous. sexy-looking machines". Steve

Jobs, Apple's founder, says that the most important question in marketing products (which used to come in any shade of beige you liked is now what is your favourite colour".

Of course, marketing effectively to women involves much more than selling the computer in green or red. But IT firms now have to realise that to sell their products they need to work a little bit harder.

AS the International Olympic Committee scandal rolls un. what will happen to the sponsors is becoming more of an is-sue. Juan Anionio Samaranch's intransigence about sucking many of the IOC or resigning himself has angered quite a few of the lead sponsors.

But are they angry enough to drop the sponsorship? Coca-Cola and United Parcel Service look like they might walk away — arguing that there is no benefit from them being associated with a "tarnished brand". John Hancock, the US insurance firm, and Visa International have asked leading sports sponsorship firms to look at alternatives - the foolball World Cup being one of the most obvious beneficiaries.

However, these high moral stances have been tempered by one nagging quescon: will competior step in and pick up a high-profile sponsorship at a bargain price? How can morals win when pitted against commerce?

jason.nisse@the-times.co.uk

Professionnels,

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French adverts are in tune with attracting female customers

on small print...

...and legal minutiae.

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Flight of fancy

IF ALL goes well, it will be 15 years between the day that someone peered out over some land west of London and said "hey, why don't we put the thing there?" and the first plane taking off from Terminal Five. A decade and a half. How long do you think it would have taken the French?

Anyway. I hear well-connected voices within BAA who believe that the (f whole project is past its sell-hy date. They say the terminal ceased to make economic sense four years ago,



"Have you noticed that it's always the Germans who sell their stake first which, coincidentally enough, is when the public inquiry that ends this week first began.

The £1.8 billion construction cost will have to be borrowed, and the worry is that the cost, as such building work tends to, will shoot through the roof and the project will never finance itself.

Most such big capital projects have in the past been built with help from the Government; that is, you and me. The only possible comparison is with Eurotunnel, which is not a parallel

BAA is keen to explore.

Des Wilson at the company insists that BAA intends to finish the terminal in 2006, and that the numbers add up. But he admits that BAA is reserving a fall-back position if they don't. "What is true is that we may have to take to the regulator and to the airlines about some sort of Terminal Five surcharge." And what if the regulator refuses?

WILLIAM HAGUE is not inclined to be mognonimous to follen enemies. Presenting on award at the London Press Club to The Guardian for the story that brought down Peter Mandelson, the Tory leader commented: "After the Labour Party spend years passing the cheque oround from Robert Maxwell, he was the one left hold-ing it when the music stopped."



Bargain bin

RICHARD BRANSON'S Virgin Group insists a sale of its deeply unloved Our Price chain will take place despite the departure of Prudential's venture capital arm after a row over price. The best bet seems to be a sale to the management, backed by the usual venture capital suspects.

This is despite industry observers who say the stores are too small and have too limited a range of stock. So I wonder if potential buyers have got as far as page 257 in Branson's autobiography, Losing My Virginity. He talks about the move to set up megastores with a much wider range, a business that Virgin, strangely, is retaining when it sells the small-

er Our Price stores.

"We knew that small record shops did not make enough money; they just attracted passers-by who were disappointed by the lack of depth of

Pension surplus THE departure of Red Oskar Lafon-

taine from the German Finance Ministry will be followed automatically by that of his two deputies. But this casual act of Teutonic brutality will not greatly impact on their lifestyles. One, Claus Noé, is 60 and will be shuffled into early retirement, on a pension of £52,000 a year. The other, Heiner Flassbeck, 48, gets 75 per cent

of his salary, or just short of £60,000, for the next five years and a pension of £36,000 thereafter. I am told this is the normal way of doing things in Germany and has attracted little attention there.

ANDERSEN CONSULTING, readers may recall, has this marvellous concierge service for its stoff. Some flunky will look after your dog or pick up your mum from the airport while you ore working 27 hours o day. I hear of the most obscure request yet.

Andersen had some people working in Helsinki in late January who wanted to celebrate Burns Night. The Finns not regarding a sheep's stomach stuffed with who knows what as fit for haman consumption, the consultonts contacted the London office, and a half dozen haggises were flown out forthwith.

Driven away

JEROME BELL, a currency broker at Cantor Fitzgerald, will today re-ceive the keys to a new Mercedes Benz A-Class, which he won in a raffle for the charity Children in Crisis.

They are being handed over at Can-tor's offices by the Duchess of York. Now, don't be unkind. Will he be driving it to work? No, his wife Rosemary has collared it. So you win an expensive Merc and promptly hand it over 10 your wife? "Basically, yes."

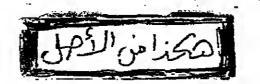
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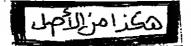


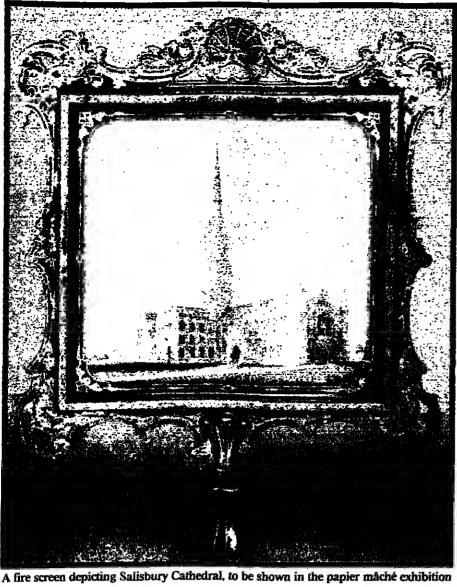
Raffle prize for one lucky



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Spring's dealers put West End gloss on objets d'art

Joseph Connolly previews the fair that sets a high note for the rest of the season

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he annual Bada antiques fair, which begins tomorrow at the Duke of York's Headquarters off the Kings Road, West London, is for me one of the first indications that spring is finally here.
Possibly n is the way that the March

sunshine illuminates those spectacular marquees. Maybe it is the topiarystrewn approach, or the dealers' lavishness with daffodils, and their penchant for setting off lovingly waxed furniture with generous bowls of oranges and lemons. Either way, visitors always approach the British Antique Dealers' Association bash with enthusiasm.

The layout of the fair, spacious but comprehensible, plays a part, but it is the quality and diversity of the pieces

on show that count.

About 90 dealers from all over the country exhibit examples of their best stock, representing every field of collect-ing — furniture (always a strong showing, and this year particularly so), fine art, ceramics, glass, prints, jewellery, textiles, clocks and silver. Prices range from about £50 to dizzy heights.

At the more elevated level, Norman Adams is showing — among the cus-tomary excellent selection of English 18th-century furniture — a fine burr maple and rosewood bureau bookcase. exceptional for several reasons. The

shell and carries highly unusual pewter John Speed's ever-popular county stringing, but most importantly it bears maps from £250 upwards. More specthe label of the noted cabinetmaker John Coxed. The bookcase was made around 1710 and is offered at somewhere between £150,000 and £200,000. More affordably, Adams also has a charming mahogany two-tier dumb waiter (c. 1790), each swivelling tier hav-

ing two pull-down flaps £10,000. John Bly is bringing some similarly gorgeous things — notably a half-cir-cle commode table by John Linnell (c. 1785) made of ma-hogany and inlaid with exotwoods in the classical manner — yours for £135,000. Also desirable is a rare Queen Anne bureau — an oak carcass covered in

tortoiseshell lacquer and chi-

noiserie priced £68,000 from Alistair Sampson. He also has a very strong showing of English pottery this year — Delft, creamware, Staffordshire, Saltglaze and more - at prices ranging from £200 to several thousands.

And for the walls, how about some rare maps and prints from The O'Shea Gallery? Particularly pleasing is a pair of Hogarth engravings (£850) depicting a seduction scene - before and after. There will also be a good selection of

tacular is a set of 12 beautifully coloured oriental rice paper paintings depicting various exotic flowers. These are mid-19th century Cantonese and are of-fered at £5,000 for the set.

There is, as ever, a plethora of won-

derful, smaller decorative items - an unusually large and magnificent richly

gilded pot-pourri was the first to catch my eye. Made by Mason's around 1815, it is 18 inches wide, 10 inches high, and lovely in every way — £1,350 from Janice Paull, who is also bringing a good collection of ironstone dated between 1800 and 1850, from about £60 to £8,000.

As to watches and jewellery, the visitor is somewhat spoilt for choice. Particularly impressive is an extraordinary dia-

mond and sapphire Art Nouveau brooch by Boucheron (1900) in the form of a cicada — a rare piece from Sandra Cronan at £75,000. More affordable is a very ornate gold and enamel fob watch by Patek Philippe (c.1890) — the protective outer repousse case opens to reveal an intricate enamelled theme depicting two cherubs set with diamonds; E8,500 from Somlo Antiques, which is

also bringing a great collection of wrist-watches by makers such as Rolex and Cartier from the Twenties to the Sixties at prices from £2,500 upwards.

Another delight is the fair's annual at-tendant exhibition. This year it focuses on the finest 100 years of decorative papier maché from 1772 to 1872. This versatile material became enormously fashionable and was applied to just about every domestic item you can

bout 40 prime items are on exhibition, and around ten dealfor sale: J Collins of Bideford has an ink stand (c 1860) at £850, David Gibbins Antiques is offering a rare and extraordinary balloon clock, around 1810, at £16,500, and Rupert Gentle An-tiques has, for £2,500, a very decorative collection of Spill vases covered in oriental birds and flowers. Not to be missed to Bada, where more can be learnt about the history of dining habits, sam-plers, wine antiques, ceramics and papier maché.

● The Bada Antiques and Fine Arts Fair is at the Duke of York's Headquarters, Kings Road London, SW3 from March 17 to 23. En-try, £10 single, £15 double to include a re-entry pass and the Bada Yearbook Call 0171-730 6730.

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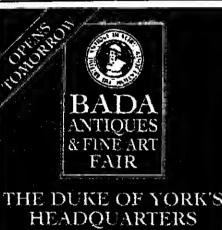
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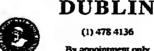


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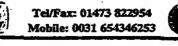
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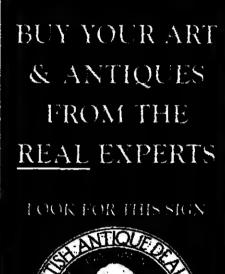
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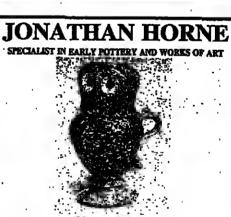
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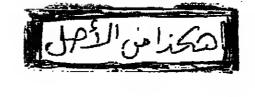


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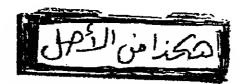
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The closing date for both these positions is Wednesday 7th April. 1st round interviews will be held in London on Thursday 15th April 1999. For further information, in complete confidence, please contact Sean Mulherin or Laurence Simons personally at Laurence Simons International Third party applications received by the firm will be forwarded to us.



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story of a newly qualified solicitor who was not kept on at his firm. "Why not take a year off and travel," suggested the friendly head of property. "When you get back there might be more vacancies around." This idea appealed to him, and off he went.

This thought is prompted by the

Disaster. When he returned he found himself competing against newly qualified solicitors with fresh experience and without a gap year to explain away to prospective employers. He will find a job eventually, but at a lower level than he'd have found immediately on

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British Red Cross Caring for people in crisis

Is the legal profession riddled with racism?

Ethnic minority figures reveal the scale of the problem, says Frances Gibb

he Lawrence inquiry has thrust racism to the top of the political has forced the whole criminal justice system into self-scrutiny. On Saturday it will be the legal profession's turn to engage in the debate when the Minority Lawyers Conference considers whether "institutional racism" exists in the profes-

sion and justice system. Many lawyers believe that the figures say it all. Ethnic minority lawyers make up 8.5 per cent of the private practice Bar and 5 per cent of practising solicitors. But the mix is changing and large numbers are joining the profession: in 1988, they made up 20 per cent of the 7.900 students enrolling with the Law Society and 16 per cent of trainees registering with law firms (double the proportion of ethnic minorities in the population). They also account for 16 per cent of barristers starting pupillage and

12 per cent gaining tenancies.
But higher up, minorities are poorly represented. There are no black High Court judges and only four (of 562) circuit judges. Numbers are rising, slowly, in the junior ranks: 3.4 per cent of assistant recorders. 3 per cent of full and parttime tribunal chairmen.

This is partly because there is still only a small pool of eligible candidates. But as Lord irvine of Lairg, the Lord Chancellor, points out, an "unwelcome trend has emerged". The proportion of applicants chosen to be Queen's Counsel from the ethnic minorities has dropped year on year: of 420 applicants in 1992, 14 (3.3 per cent) were non-white. By 1997, the figure had dropped to 2.4 per cent, although last year

it rose again. to 3.5 per cent. There is recognition of the problem: the conference is a mainstream event, organised by the Lord Chancellor's Department, the Bar and Law Society, in consultation with the main ethnic lawyer groups. Lord Irvine, who will give the keynote speech, has urged ethnic minorities to go for judicial posts: "Don't be shy, apply".

What, then, do they think? Maria Fernandes, 39, an immigration solicitor and Law Society ethnic minorities council member, says: "Ethnic minority solicitors will be adversely affected by the Government's reforms. Under legal aid contracts, small firms will be heavily reduced and this will hit ethnic minority lawyers, who are concentrated in

such firms. "Such lawyers face problems from the start; they go to schools and universities not considered as good as others,

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The new policy will pick up all the costs awarded against the litigant, plus most of

his or her solicitor's costs and expenses. Peter Smith of the insurers says: "At

present, people can insure against judgments going against them, but premiums

☐ An American judge is to receive four

Viagra pills a month from his health in-surer after threatening to sue it for not

must be paid before the case starts."



Maria Fernandes "A ripple effect sets in."



"There is institutional racism in the profession," says Anuja Dhir Lincoln Crawlood adds: "I shill find problem

contracts and a 'ripple effect' sets in. There is no doubt that we have institutional racism at the Law Society and in law firms. We have to tackle it by looking at procedures, training contracts and so on. People are still worried about what clients will think."

When at a City law firm, she was taken by a senior partner to be introduced to a client. "He wanted to reassure the client," she recalls. "There is a fear there, but n is not as obvious as pointing to something and saying that was racism, sexism, or maybe they did not like your face. Many people equate equal opportunities with tackling racism. The pro-fession likes to think the prob-

lem does not exist." Anuja Dhir, 31, a barrister at 5 Paper Buildings, says: "There is institutional racism throughout the legal profession and in the way justice is administered. Discrimination occurs in three ways: first, ethnic minority lawyers are not what people perceive to be the

the right sex, for a barrister, and that perception is held by other lawyers, judges and lay clients. Secondly, they are perceived not to have been to the 'right' schools or universities. Thirdly, they don't have the same social skills to integrate.

"I was lucky, but others get forced into ghetto chambers and don't get the opportunities and can never recover from that. People can't apply for posts if they haven't had the right experience."

Raju Bhatt, 42, a solicitor with his own four-partner firm, Bhatt Murphy, says: "The criminal justice system is permeated with racism at every level and black people are treated differently - from the way complaints are handled to sentences. Black lawyers all have experiences. I have been treated at court as if I am the consumer of the system. rather than the supplier. I came into law late and was lucky to get a training contract at Birnbergs, where I was giv-

en space to develop my prac-

supplying him with the po-

lency drug, according to

magazine. Initially, the health insurer of Judge David Scholl, a Philadel-

phia bankruptcy judge who says he is partially

impotent, refused to sup-

ply him with the drug, but relented when

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Salford County Court judges has been packing them in. Even judges from other

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clude Coronation Street's Audrey Rob-

erts, who pops in for a Sue Nicholls Expe-

rience, the Halle Orchestra conductor

ened to take it to court.

The American Lawyer

police, prisons, deaths in custody, prisoners' rights). That is so important. But my experience is very untypical. Many black lawyers have to battle to get those footholds." Lincoln Crawford, 50, a bar-

rister and chairman of the Bar race relations committee, says: Things are not as bad as when I started in 1976, when it was almost impossible to get into chambers. I was pulled in by Sir Peter Rawlinson because he was determined to do something. But he was a lone voice. I still find problems getting work. It's all been

through my contacts. The reason the Lord Chancellor can't get enough ethnic minorities into judicial posts is because of our failings at the Bar and among solicitors who don't brief black barristers.

"We have to show we are making a difference: we can't go out as lawyers and defend people in this era of change while we at the Bar are hiding behind our equal opportunities and equality codes."

Kent Nagano, who enjoys a Nagano Ex-

press, and the stage star Shane Ritchie

☐ All but two of the 42 new Chief Crown

Prosecutors, whose appointments were

announced last week, come from within the Crown Prosecution Service, despite

the fact that more than a quarter of the

209 applicants were external. Ironically,

the posts were created as part of a drive to decentralise the service and many com-

mentators saw the move as a chance to in-

☐ Euro lawyers will flock to the first annual Lord Siynn of Hadley European Law Lecture — by Gil Carlos Rodriguez Iglesias, the President of the European

Court of Justice, on Monday. The sub-

ject? Drinks in Luxembourg, alcoholic

beverages and European case law -

oiled by a reception. Details: Lisa Fretton,

Steuart & Francis

who has his own Lucky Butty.

ject new blood into the service.

Discovering just who runs the country that we now see around us. Judges more and t is time that we knew more about our

top judges: who they are, what their interests are and how they are appointed. Why? Because over the years judges have taken more and more powers to themselves. This, when linked to the new constitutional role that legislation is giving them, radically alters the balance of power. To say this is not to criticise the integrity of any top judge, sim-ply to emphasise that they are becoming overmighty subjects: too powerful and selected in secret by an unaccountable process.

We need greater openness about the way our judges are appointed for four reasons, and there are four ways of ensuring that we know more about these people (mostly men). First, because of the way in which an un-

checked judiciary has been pushing out the boundaries of its powers Only 20 years ago, judicial review of government decisions was a rarity. Even as an old lag of the government process, hardened in the corridors of Whitehall, I do not think that the judicial review of gov-ernment decisions is bad. But its increasing use has radical-ly altered the balance of powers in our constitutional arrangements and the law lords have brought themselves straight into the political process as a result.

Secondly, when the substantive provisions of the European Rights Act come into force, by developing the common law compatibly with the rights contained in

we shall be facing a legal revolution. For the first time, our rights as subjects will be spelt out, leading to an ever-greater burst of judicial activism

the European Convention on Human Rights,

The Government's vague mystery tour approach to constitutional change has left a vacuum that will mean judges are drawn into arbitrating between Westminster, the Scottish parliament and the Welsh assembly. This may not be the Government's intention, but unless it comes up with an alternative mechanism, the Appellate Committee of the House

of Lords will become a constitutional court. When asked whether he has proposals to develop a constitutional court, Lord Irvine of Lairg, the Lord Chancellor, denied this, But he seems blind to the fact that it is about to evolve in front of our eyes. Baroness Jay of Paddington says that the Government is not going to set up a permanent royal commission or any similar body to monitor constitutional change in the UK. If so, the higher judiciary is going to be asked to garner more and

more constitutional power to itself.
. Thirdly, it is vital that we have greater openness because of the greater judicial activism

more take to themselves jurisdiction over moral matters, in line with how they, not Parlia-ment, see internacional law developing. In the past, under common law, judges always had the ability to circumvent parliamentary influence, but this has rarely been a matter of serious public concern, let alone constitutional implication. Why? Because of the usual conservative and personally cautious approach of the law lords, who have ensured that the tide of

change has flowed slowly. We urgendy need to build in more checks and balances, to guarantee that no one group of people, in this case our judges, become over-mighty subjects. The best way to start on this process is to ensure that our judges are closely scrutinised. Posts at the highest level

need to be advertised to show that all talent, male and female, can be appointed to the highest courts. And there should be an annually updated and mandatory register of interests publicly available for all Lords of Appeal in Ordinary and other top judges.

There should also be a pow-erful lay element involved in the selection of these judges. including those outside the law. The way in which the Lord Chancellor conducts the appointments procedure for the law lords and other senior judges is through an informal and secret consultation process with other senior judges -

exactly like the old magic circle approach by which Conservative Party leaders were selected until the 1960s.

Lastly, so important is a law lord's role becoming that there should be public hearings before anyone is appointed a law lord. Most in the law seem to be in a state of absolute denial that the higher judiciary has become more political. Yet as things stand, the role of these judges in promoting and monitoring constitutional change will be unfettered.

There should be a select committee of both Houses of Parliament to ensure that those recommended for appointment are fit for the role, and that our courts contain a balance. But on reflection, perhaps this idea is not so radical, after all, for surely our top judiciary - who seemed so very keen to have the European Convention on Human Rights incorporated into our law — could not resist the idea that they, too, are selected by the same open

process as their brother judges in Strasbourg. It is the very judicial activism of our top judges that has brought their role so sharply into focus. Fairness and constitutional balance demand that they should be as closely exarnined as those who appear before them. Lord Patten is a former Home Office Minister.

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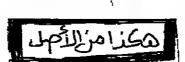














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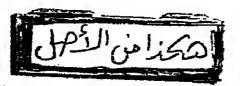
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Curbing power at the DTI

Kevin Maxwell's contempt victory has implications for future inquiries, say Keith Oliver and David Corker

used to

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he unprecedented defeat suffered by the Depart-ment of Trade and Industry (DTI) in its attempt to cite Kevin Maxwell for contempt of court - arising from his reasoned refusal to co-operate with a DTI inquiry - may be the death knell of such inquiries under the Companies Act 1985.

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In his judgment delivered last week, Sir Richard Scott, Vice-Chan-cellor and head of the Chancery Division, said that Maxwell's fears about unfair treatment at the hands of DTI inspectors were justified. He had been entitled to refuse to answer their questions and to refuse to provide a confidentiality undertaking.

The powers of DTI inspectors conducting Section 432 or 442 Companies Act inquires can be fairly described as draconian.

They have, for example, the powers of compulsory questioning and seizure of documents, and their published reports often lead to career blight for those criti-Furthermore, these reports can also be a prelude to criminal prosecution.

Inspectors, encouraged by the DTI, have become accustomed to inquiries' setting the rules for the conduct of inquiries as they see fit. At the least,

Maxwell's case underlines the need for DTI inspectors to give greater recognition to standards of fairness and reasonableness rather than slavishly adhering to past custom and practice.

The inspectors were appointed to investigate the events surrounding the flotation, in April 1991, of Mirror Group Newspapers, Having failed to secure Maxwell's compliance with their regime of questioning and confidentiality, the in-spectors in late 1998 cited him for contempt. Anticipating the implications for DTI inquiries were the inspectors' application to fail, the DTI intervened and was separately represented. The inspectors' argument was that Maxwell had unreasonably refused to co-operate pursuant to his statutory obligations under the Companies Act and that the inspectors could be trusted

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to be fair masters of their own procedure. It was said that the imposition of confidentiality on witnesses was necessary to ensure the effective operation of DTI inquiries.

Maxwell argued that the inspec tors had not gone far enough in seeking to protect him from unfairness. For example, they had not agreed to refrain from asking him questions regarding matters about which he had already been questioned, either in his criminal trial or beforehand during the various insolvency interrogations. Maxwell said that the attempt to impose confidentiality was one-sided in favour of the inspectors; they were seeking to prevent him from conferring with others in order to defend him-self properly while they enjoyed no restriction in the use they made of information given to them.

In his, at times, excoriating judgment of the 'Inspectors inspectors and the DTI. the Vice-Chancellor reserved his most trenchhave been ant comments for the inspectors' attempt to impose any such confidentiality. He held that they had no right to insist on any such undertaking. if they wish to preserve and protect the confidentiality of the information and documents they need do no more than make sure that every person to whom the information is communicat-

ed . . . is on notice of their confidential character. The undertaking that the inspectors sought to extract from Maxwell was "... in my opinion a good deal further than was either reasonable or necessary". The Vice-Chancellor concluded:

"Mr Maxwell was, in my judg-ment, entitled to regard these conditions as constituting an unjustified impediment hindering him in attempting to prepare himself to deal with the inspectors' questions."

What is undeniable is that indi-

viduals who are compelled to appear before DTI inspectors whether those appointed under the Companies Act or the Finanoal Services Act - should no longer regard a summons to the presence as an appearance before a Star Chamber with an entirely uneven playing field. Inspectors are no longer auto-



The DTI failed to cite Kevin Maxwell for contempt after he had refused to co-operate with its inquiry

matically entitled to require blanket undertakings of confidentiality from witnesses, particularly if they are unrepresented and where there

have been previous proceedings. Inspectors may need to identify to witnesses their evidence given to other tribunals, regulators, prose-cuting authorities or office-holders to avoid the oppression of duplicat-ed questioning. Individuals may be entitled to receive advance notice of questions so that they can prepare in advance and not be subjected to interrogation where the inspectors.

with their substantial resources, hold all the aces.

The implications of the case are not limited to Maxwell's victory. One issue surely under consideration by Stephen Byers and his de-partment is whether inspections under Part XIV of the Companies Act 1985 can continue in their present form. Sir Richard Scott's deosion, coupled with the implementation of the Human Rights Act, is likely to affect significantly the State's use of compulsive inquisitorial powers. It is not only the DTI

that should take note of the judge's decision. The Financial Services Authority, with its proposed draconian powers as contemplated in the Financial Services and Markets Bill, may find that its powers and procedures will similarly face judicial scrutiny and perhaps suffer the same fate as has befallen the Secretary of State and his inspectors.

· Keith Oliver and David Corker are partners with the law firm Peters and Peters, which acred for Kevin Maxwell.

Partner

Should young offenders be tagged?

PAULA DAVIES, London magistrate

hild offenders as young as ten could be electronically tagged under last week's proposals from the Youth Justice Board to tackle the rising number of young criminals. Will the Big Brother approach work? A London probation officer said recently of tagging: "People like us have to listen to too many excuses, so maybe this scheme will be more effective."

As a JP 1 am concerned that tagging should be used as a commu-nity sentence order or part of one. This should involve the Probation Service rather than just putting a prisoner under the control of a machine which can alert a computer that they have absconded. The idea came from America more than 30 years ago and has been selectively piloted in a few areas since 1995. The pilot schemes have been more successful than expected. In Greater Manchester, which dominated the national statistics on tagging, the completion rate of curfew orders — 80 per cent — confounded expectations. At first magistrates were sceptical and wary. Yet experience from the pilot schemes was the confounded to th won them over. Why? Because tagging in those schemes, unlike the present home detention curiews, was imposed as part of a community service order and usually directly involved the Probation Service.

In Greater Manchester magistrates used the orders as direct alternatives to custody in five out of ten cases. Magistrates elsewhere would welcome the chance to do the same, but the orders are not yet in force nationally. The jury is still out on whether such schemes will reduce offending rather than merely empty the prisons. Reconviction rates post-prison are higher than those after community service, and if such orders can include reparation orders, the outcome could be even better. The scheme must be worth a try nationally; and will, I hope, come into force this year.

JULIAN BROADHEAD, probation officer

n January the first prisoners were released under electronic tagging in the Government's latest attempt to cut prison numbers.

Not all prisoners qualify for the new home detention curfew—
a period of between 14 days and two months at the end of a sentence. They must be aged at least 18 and serving between three months and four years. Those required to register under the Sex Offenders Act 1997 or Category A prisoners are ineligible. The official estimate is that 35,000 prisoners are expected to be released in one year. Curfews are between nine and 13 hours, from 7pm to 7am. The offender must stay at home.

How does the monitoring work? On release, a small identification device is attached to one ankle and a monitoring unit is installed in the prisoner's home. The unit communicates with a central computer system and if the tag is interfered with or if the person wearing it strays beyond a set range (usually only within the home) the device informs the contractor and the person is liable for recall to prison.

The legislation, Sections 99 and 100 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, has had widespread support. Confidence is high among politicians, prison staff and the contracting companies. Premier, Securicor and GSSC. There were hitches in the pilot schemes. Bed-springs were blamed for setting off tags after police visited homes in the early bours to find their person not missing but sleeping soundly: one man removed his tag before committing a murder and many others simply disappeared.

The scheme's success will depend on how prisoners are selected.

The projected figure of 4,000 prisoners tagged at any one time seems high. And even if achieved, the prison population will be higher than when the Government took office.

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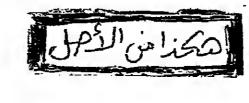
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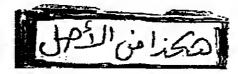
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The victory of Mama Africa

A great singer and a dignified ambassador, Miriam

Makeba is back in London. Nigel Williamson met her

to Kennedy on his birthday. addressed the United Nations

et there is no trace of

bitterness. "It's very

tiring being bitter. The light at the end of

past and look to the future." .

South Africa has been tucky,

came home he said to me:

'Miriam, we must never for-

cause, she has remained an

artist rather than a militant. "I

he first thing Miriam Makeba did when she was allowed to return to her native South Africa after more than three decades in exile was to visit her mother's grave. "I sometimes wondered if it would ever happen. I had a wonderful reception from family and friends who I hadn't seen since I left. Some I could no longer recognise. I put my bags down at my brothers' house and then they took me

It is hard not to get a lump n the throat as Makeba tells he story. It was when her mother died in 1960 that she was banned by the apartheid regime. At the time she was on tour in America where, under the patronage of Harry Belafonte, she was fast becoming a star. As she was preparing to fly home for the funeral she was told that her public criticisms of Pretoria's regime had made her persona non grata.

This week she flies to London for her first British conthe timnel only grows brighter if we don't waste energy on the cert in five years. She has just finished recording a new al-burn, her first since the end of apartheid, aprly titled Make-ba - The Legend Lives On. she says, in having the exam-ple of Mandela. "When I first With South Africa preparing for its second free election in June, her Festival Hall appearget, but we must forgive. He had the ability to unite people ance promises to be a celebration not only of the rainbow nation but of the triumph of the and it is a miracle that we human spirit in the face of made the transition without Averwhelming adversity.

verwhelming adversity.

She will be accompanied by sides are working very hard to a family enforcage that spays ... keep it together."
four generations — for, at 67. Although her music was a grandmother. Travelling with her will be her granddaugh-

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83 - commissioned jointly by

the Scottish Chamber Orches-

tra, the Northern Sinfonia and

Sinfonia 21 - is the latest Mc-

Tier inspiration, and one of

The new work is characteris-Holloway in that it ap-

proaches the problem in a thor-

oughly radical way. Far from

attempting to compensate for the restricted colour and dy-namic range of the double bass by means of extravagant

orchestration, the composer

has pured the score down to

the extent that the solo instru-

ment seems in be the most re-

sourceful element in it. Far

from compensating for its re-

stricted mobility with complex

harmonies and rhythms, he

has simplified the material to

suit its slow-thinking personal-

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the most effective.

ter. Zinzi, who sings in the feel vindicated. They used to band, and her three-year-old brand me a rebel because I son, Lindelini. sang about politics. I never Makeba's lined face bears the imprint of the tragedy that sang about politics. I merely sang the truth. People can now has dogged her life and councome to South Africa and see try, but it also shines with the for themselves that we were serenity and dignity she has never lost. As the ambassador not being ridiculous when we told them what was happening. We had to fight. We had to go into exile. We had no choice." of black South Africa, she sang

and sold millions of records of Since she returned in 1991 at her Xhosa and Zulu songs. Mandela's request, she has But always the cloud of exile been working on a project to hung over her. With it came huge sacrifice. Three mem-bers of her family were killed in the Sharpeville massacre in create a home for destitute girls at Balfour, an impoverished township. Two weeks ago on her birthday she finally 1960. There were several di-vorces, including from the trumpeter Hugh Masekela unveiled the plaque that an-nounced the establishing of the Makeba Home For Girls... and the Black Panther, Stoke-If she can raise enough funds ley Carmichael. Her daughter Bongi died after her third to complete the renovation of the old miners' hostel it should baby was stillborn. Makeba open its doors in August herself battled with cancer.

South Africa has great potential. There is crime, but the root of that is poverty. People still need housing. In years to come there will be relief if we work hard. But we appeal to people in Britain—don't abandon us. You helped us before but keep on helping, because the struggle goes on."

There is a humility about her that means she has mixed feelings about the name by which she is known around the world. "Mama Africa is a heavy burden, it is as if I am carrying the whole continent on my back. But I recognise it is an affectionate name and yes, that makes me feel good. " A hall overflowing with that affection on the South Bank this

● Miriam Makeba is at the Festival Hall (0171-960 4242) tomorrow



Miriam Makeba: "They branded me a rebel because I sang about politics. I never sang about politics. I sang the truth"

irst of all catch your bassist. The most suc-cessful of British dou-**Perfect** ble-bass concertos in recent. bass years, John Casken's and Peter Maxwell Davies's pre-eminent among them, have been written specifically for Duninstincts can McTier, who plays a noto-riously awkward instrument with the most extraordinary clarity and fluency. Robin Holloway's Concerto for Double

CONCERTS

ity. The first movement is written entirely on the white notes (to translate it into keyboard terms) with not a sharp or flat to be seen. There is a progression in sophistication in the second and third movements but without ever getting as far as the equivalent of asking the instrument to walk on its hind

So after the first movement - where the soloist carries a heavy melodic line as if on a Mussorgsky promenade, find-ing harmonic interest in the modes its passes through and rhythmic interest in contradicting the bar lines - there is a

witty scherzo in which the bass assumes its jazz persona in a stylishly syncopated, eloquently expressive pizzicato

though the soloist has a busy cadenza and a memorably weird passage in harmonics, the orchestra is held in restraint until, right at the end, it is allowed to luxuriate in what is actually a simple A major. It is a brave and remarkably fresh approach to old-fash-ioned diatonic harmony with, most emphatically, nothing of minimalism anywhere near it.

The first three performances of the Double Bass Concerto were given in St Andrews, Edinburgh and Glasgow by Mc-Tier and the Scottish Chamber Orchestra under the direction of Andrew Litton. In the Edinburgh concert the Dvorák Legends that preceded it sounded oddly out of place in the Queen's Hall acoustic which,

GERALD LARNER Italian genius in French

ew works meditate more profoundly on life and death than Mahler's Ninth Symphony, so it was a fitting gesture that Satur-In the last movement too, alday night's performance by the Philharmonia under its principal conductor Christoph von Domnányi was dedicated

to the late Lord Menuhin. The symphony has become irrevocably associated (thanks not least to Leonard Bernstein) with raw nerve-endings and overt emotionalism. But other approaches can be equally valid. Pierre Boulez has recently brought to bear on Mahler the laser beam of his intellect, delivering cool, lucid accounts that reveal new insights into texture and structure. Dohnányi is a man after Boulez's heart precise, cerebral, not giv-

en to excess and rigorously eschewing sentimentality. The virtues of such an approach were evident from the start, in the half-hour-long clarity. Wind and brass mean-while spotlit the texture with

Philiparmonta/ Demanyi Festival Half

detail, and the shape of the movement emerged with admirable intelligibility.

A nagging feeling that it was all a shade calculated began to take root, however - a sense that was not dissipated by Dohnanyi's handling of the second-movement Ländler. "Somewhat clumsy and very coarse" it may be marked by the composer, but this peasant dance should still have a spring of some kind in its step. The satirical nature of the Rondo-Burleske was rather more convincing. even if Dohnányi's measured reading hardly allowed it to make as ex-

And so to the Adagio finale, that sublime valediction to life, where, alas, Dohnanyi's coolness seemed more than ever

Cold at heart

plosively immediate an impact

strings once again enhanced the richly textured fabric of the score, and the members of the Philharmonia surpassed them-selves in maintaining their con-

centration over the long span. However, the emotional ba-

rometer obstinately refused to register, and if this movement fails to tug at the heartstrings, there is something seriously wrong. A stoic confrontation with mortality is one thing. but we should be in no doubt that the final pages of this awe-inspiring score are a mat-ter of life and death.

BUILDING A LIBRARY

A guide to the best classical

CDs presented with BBC Radio 3

HANDEL'S WATER MUSIC wiewed by Lucie Skeaping

HANDEL composed his "Cele-brated Water Musick" in 1717 for the season's grandest bash
— an evening river party given
by George 1. It had been a pretty bad year for the monarchy and a high-profile floating fiesta was just what the spin-doc-tors ordered. The King and his entourage boarded open barg-es as did 50 liveried musicians, who played Mr Handel's new work all the way up the Thames from Whitehall to Chelsea and back.

The most successful performances achieve a good "outdoor" sound, particularly in the brass and woodwind. The brazen horns of the King's Consort hit the mark. The Amsterdam Baroque Orchestra opts for small forces - fine in gentler movements but elsewhere leaving the harpsichord over-exposed. The Orchestra of St Luke's under Charles Mackerras displays a hearty rhythmic cheek.

But one should be a little wary of modern-instrument performances of this quintessentially 18th-century work and the Berlin Philharmonic is waterlogged from the start — its slow Overture presages a performance as burly as Ber-lioz, I wasn't too keen on John Eliot Gardiner's English Barooue Soloists either - they take the famous Air with a swing, but other movements often steamroller through without sensitivity to the natural phrasing.
The naive charm of the G

major Minuer is beautifully captured by Christopher Hogwood's Academy of Ancient Music in a listenable overall recording, but in the end, I would fork out for II Fondamento (Vanguard Classics 99713, £8.99). I have never heard the Woter Music sound quite as fresh as this: bold, beautiful and damn good fun. Perfect party music.

 To order the recommended recording, with free delivery. please send a cheque payable to The Times Music Shop to FREEPOST, SCO681, Forres. IV36 OBR or phone 0345 023 498; e-mail: music@the-times.

Nea Saturday, Radio 3 (Ham): MILLINGTON Diorak's Cello Concerto

first movement with its cortège-like processions. His on the other hand, was just right for the precisely project-ed and finely focused McTier sound in the Holloway, and second violins placed on the right and cellos next to the not at all inimical to an exuberfirsts on the left, Dohnányi ant interpretation of Schuetched the profile of the varimann's Fourth Symphony. ous string lines with striking

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NATIONAL GALLERY

be Chelsea Opera Group had done well by Verdi's first opera **OPERA** written for Paris: it gave a rare concert performance in the original French some 20 years ago, at a time when even the Paris Opera was still performing it in Italian translation. It does matter the French language governs the style of the

poser took great pains over the word-setting. However, Sunday's repeat tended to confirm that the concert platform is perhaps the best place for Les Vépres siciliennes - it's one of the most uneven of Verdi's operas. He had to make do with a secondhand libretto from the Scribe factory in which cardboard characters are put in stock situations the interest lies in the way Verdi's genius bursts through operatic formulas as

restrictive as the cavatina-

cabaletta patterns he had

tamed at home, and in the fact

that he was flexing his mus-

cles with the best orchestra

and chorus of the day. The

vocal writing even more than

in Don Carlos, and the com-

Openius parent real

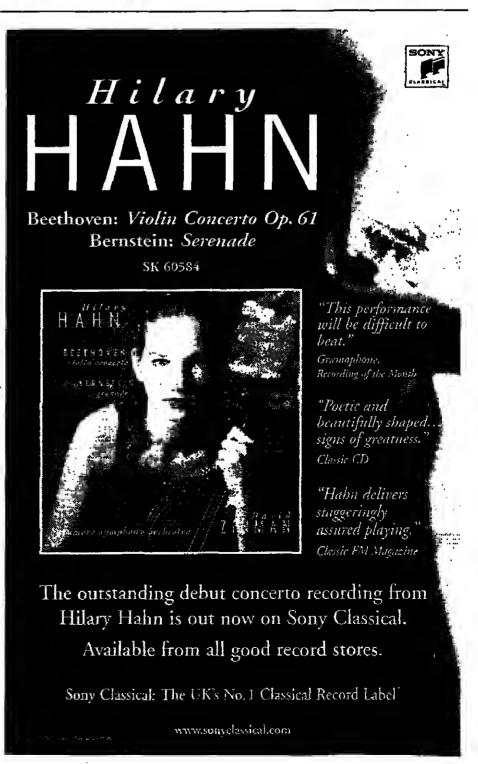
good bits are stunning, the less good bits workaday. The Australian conductor

Brad Cohen made the strongest possible case for the piece with rhythmic vitality, an infallible feel for the right tempo, a sense of structure and, when appropriate, some good honest vulgarity. The COG Orchestra and Chorus responded with enthusiasm. but without quite disguising the fact that some of the writing is

very tricky indeed. In an evening that might well have been subtifled "Pardon my French", enunciation of the text ranged from the well-intentioned to the grotesque, and the baritone David Barrell (Guy de Montfort) had the best intentions of all: he really "thought" the lines, and shaped them with rare musical insight. Edmund Barham, who has been heard here far too little recently. coped heroically with Henri's relentlessly high-lying tessitu-ra and used his impressive breath control to spin some long, Gallically elegant lines. It was sad that the only significant cut (apart from the ballet) deprived him of the scraphic little phrase sailing up to a

Hélène is another killerrole and Denia Mazzola attacked it fearlessly; slight of stature but with ber flashing eyes looking every inch the Sicilian patriot, she has a huge, evenly distributed soprano and bags of technical agility - very impressive. The young Romanian bass Sorin Coliban (Procida) sounded more like a Boris Godunov in the making than a basse chantante, but the material offers boundless possibilities. Some of the singing in smaller roles was as workaday as some of the music. A solidly satisfying evening, all the same.

RODNEY MILNES



RECOMMENDED TODAY

Guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Marit Hargie

LONDON

TROILUS AND CRESSIDA: Trevor Nunn and John Caird direct black Trojans and white Greeks, with Poter de Jersey and Sophie Olkonedo. Olivier, South Bank, SE1 (0171-452

3000). S Tonight. 7pm. MARK BRUCE DANCE CO: Music inspired by Tom Walls forms the basis for Bruce's new solo for Diame Locamore, kid Drafeng Fre. A special commission for the Spring Loaded Festival. The Place (0171-387 0031). Tomght and Lomonrow, 8pm.

ANIMAL CRACKERS: Ben Kaston, Joe Alesel and Toby Sedgwick play the three maniacs in a stage version of the Mark Brothers movie. First seen at Manchester's Royal Exchange. Lyrle, WI (0171-484 5045). Opens forught, 7pm.

ELSEWHERE

BIRMINGHAM: Ofiver Knussen's two delightful fantasy operas, Higglety Puglety Popt and Where the Wild Things Aro, are given a concert performance by the London Sintonietta conducted by the corriposar, Repeat of in the CEH, London, borrorow. Symphony Hall (0121-212 3333). Tonight, 7.30pm. [5]

HUMBERSTOE: The fruits of nine months' hard artistic labour are reaped as the immates from Wolds Prison as the immates from Wolds Prison joined by a clusted of professional per tomers premiere the rock musical Subtopts. This large-scale speciacular featuring lasers, indoor idles and on electronic musical acore, is created by Surrent Aris. A gala performance of Saburday will be transmitted live on the Net. Website: www.subtopts.co.uk



Immates from Wolds Prison perform Subtopia

MANCHESTER: In Jonether Harvey's now play Hushabye Hountein, dead Danny enjoys the company of Judy Garland in Heavi while his boyfinend on Earth copes with the hole in his life. Paul Miller directs this touring production. Library Theatre (0161-236 7110). Tonight, 7.30pm. (5)

WARWICK: In this celebrity concert the Stutigart Philharmonic is joined by the acctained plantet Barry Dougle who plays Zarahme's pessionate Plas Piano Concerto. Music by Hindemith Faure and Ravet make up the remainder of the programme. Jorge Peter Welgle conducts.

in MACBETH: Rulus Sewell and Sally Dexter play the superstitious thane and his missis in John Crowley's production. Queens, W1 (0171-494 5041).

SI COPENHAGEN: Heisenberg mysteriously calls on Niels Bohr in wartone Denmark. Michael Frayn's engrossing play is directed by Michael Blakemore.

858 (0171-494 5075).

Boswell's jolly production of Ben Jonson's rumbustious comedy transfers from Stratford,

Young Vic (0171-928 6363). [3]

BARTHOLOMEW FAIR: Laurence

☐ SHOCKHEADED PETER: Wonderfully sinister show by the Cultural industry team with the Tigo Lilice and Markyn Jacques is faseful screech, Lynic (0181-741 8701). [3]

DEFENDING THE CAVEMAN; Mark Little makes his West End debut

In Rob Becker's new comedy, tracing the origins of the man/wome

NEW WEST END SHOWS

Jeremy Kingston's choics of theatre showing in London

■ House full, returns only in Some seats available □ Seats at all prices

on, reopening this theatre. e, right. h (0870 840 1111). (5)

DBLIE HEART: Caryl Churchill's wonderfully inventive pair of plays, revealing ternity troubles by way of incide with words and time. Max Stafford-Clark directs for Out of Joint. nce Theatre (0171-609 1800).

☐ SLAVA'S SNOWSHOW: The excellent Slava Polunic returns, with new material, new clowing as well as his unforgottable finale. Theatre (0171-369 1734).

■ SPEER: Klaus Maria Brandauer directs and plays the title role of Hitler's mester architect in Eather Vitar's drama. With Sven Eric Bechtoli

FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE

James Christopher's choice of the latest movies **NEW RELEASES**

PATCH ADAMS (12): Robin Williams puts the comic stitches in this absurd medical movie about a doctor who wants to cure the world with laughter, Director Tom Shedync extracts an obscene amount of sentiment with as latte anaesthetic as possible.

PLEASANTVILLE (12): Ingenious spoof of American family values. Two dystunctional 1990s teemagers get

TV soap. Great performances from Tobey Maguire, Jeff Daniels, and Reese Witherspoon. CENTRAL STATION (15): Walter Selec's Brazilian road movie cred febutous chemistry between a young boy in search of his identity, and a cynical ex-teacher in search of her

cynical ex-teacher in season on soul. Fernanda Montenegro and Vinclus de Oliveira are astonish SCHIZOPOLIS (18): Steven Soder-bergh's experimental satire on corporate anxiety is utter globerish, with camere angles and dialogue to

CURRENT

BELOVED (15): Oprah Winfrey is surprisingly powerful as a runaway stave haunted by pollergeists, lynch

mobs, and a dead daughter.
Jonathan Demme's overlong film leits, however, to get inside the testering heart of Yori Momison's Pulitizer Prize winner. With Danny Glover, Thendie Newton, and Kimberly Eise.

HESTEN (15): Thomas Vinterberg's billing, black, Danish large features disastrous tamily reunion. Shot with hand-held cameras, it menages to

THE 39 STEPS (U): Hitchcock's witty take on Buchen's ripping yarn is full of tabulous set places. Robert Donat's smooth bachelor dashes across Scotlend pursued by scampeting police and ruthless sples. A romance and good hand-cuffing rarely feel more than a

THE THIN RED LINE (15): A THE THIN RED LINE (15): gottering cent of American soldiers lose their sanity in the South Pacific during the Second World War. Terrence Melick's artistic masterpiect stars Sear Penn, Jim Caviozal, Ben Chapitin, and Nack NoRe.

YOU'VE GOT MAIL (PG): Bullet-proof romantic blockbuster with Tom Harrise and Mag Ryan who fall in love on the Internet. Written and directed by Nora Ephron.

Nigel Cliff sees an over-performed Shakespeare tragedy and a little-performed Gogol comedy

Noises on and off

Hamlet in Act V: his dying words. It is one of those peculiarly Shakespearean phrases which seem simple enough, but suggest an awful lot more than they say. In death, in silence, Hamlet finally manages to suit the action to the word the advice he gave to the actors earlier. But plays (if not this play) are neater than life, and the moment cannot last. On cue, in marches Fortinbras with his drums and guns to give the philosopher-prince an incongruous and far from silent soldier's funeral, which he blithely proclaims will "speak loudly for him". Hamlet is arguably the

most elaborately silent character in literature. The more words, words he unleashes, the less we know him - the less, though to say so is a contradiction too, he knows himself. Noise, in this most elusive of plays, is often meaning-

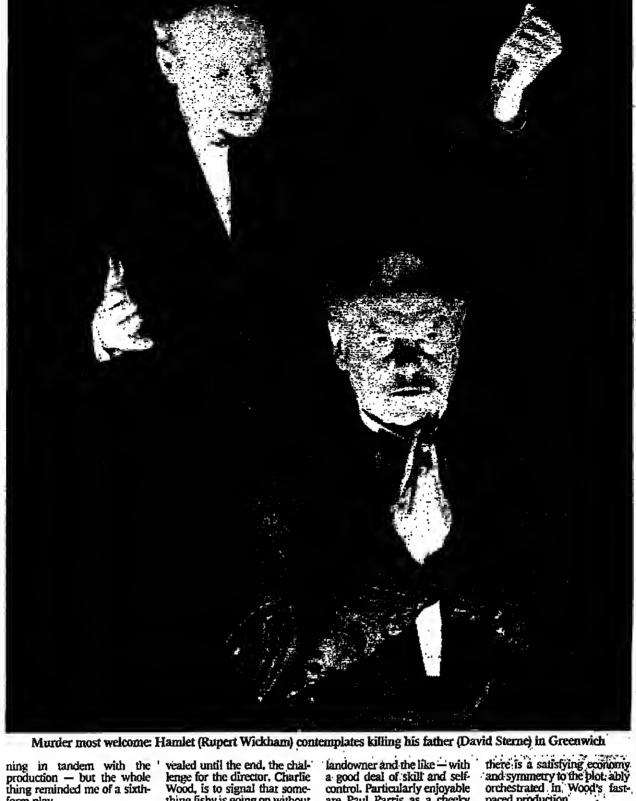
LONDON THEATRE

less, silence seldom empty. These ironies are lost, though, in Christopher Geelan's ham-handed production at the newly reopened Greenwich Theatre, which ends more with a whimper than with a bang and which sports, in Rupert Wickham, the loudest Hamlet I can remember. Spluttering with petulant pique, spitting out his soliloquies, thwarted by events rather than stymied by endless self-examination, this is Hamlet as angry young man rather than as metaphysical merce-

It makes for a certain nervous energy and the semblance of clarity. But this is a glib and meretricious interpretation. which fails to hold water even after a whopping number of lines have been ditched. Hamlet has to be cut, but there is judicious pruning and there is senseless hacking.

Though Wickham is mannered, he at least holds the attention and speaks the verse clearly. Most manage far less. Colin Farrell and Paul Thornley play Polonius and Guildenstern for easy laughs: they raise a fair few. but overdo it. David Sterne's Claudius is totally lacking in presence; Alwyne Taylor's brassy Gertrude is better. It was a misfor the Ghost the device is form play. awkward, and it robs his resounding words of their necessary force.

No help is offered by Bridget Kimak's crude set, billed as "startling and disjointed", actually three banks of rudimentary steps on which a Jackson Pollock fan seems to have been let loose. The costumes are a bizarre ragbag of periods and styles. Perhaps it was the school parties making their presence loudly felt in the audience - a laudably ambidous outreach programme is run-



ore hammy acting is on display tersea Arts Centre in Double Edge Drama's new version of Gogol's littleknown play. Gamblers. But this time, thankfully, it is deliberate. This tightly plotted little piece, well served by Joe Spence's free and easy adaptation. deals with the gulling of a naive provincial card-sharp by a band of worldly-wise commen. Since the sting is not rething fishy is going on without making it too obvious. The trick is a set of ever-so-subtly dodgy performances from the six fraudsters, and a game of dare with the audience. It is a brave cast who spend a whole play playing characters playing other characters badly. Inevitably you wonder at first whether they are acting bad

acting, or just bad actors. With hindsight, the six pull off their assigned caricatures - the etiolated Frenchman. the militaristic German, the puritanical provincial Russian

are Paul Parris as a cheeky young inn-keeper (a Russian version of Sam Weller from The Pickwick Papers), Roger Braban as the landowner, and

in on the game. Of course, it is also a brave writer who lets you think he can only create stereotypes until the last minute of his play: this difficulty no doubt ex-plains why Gamblers was left unfinished by Gogol and remains seldom performed. But

Paul Curran as his son Young

Glov, who seems the ultimate

booby until it transpires he is

paced production.

At times, perhaps, it is too fast the cast seem unsure whether they are playing a farce or a black comedy. It is, indeed, somewhere between the two, but could benefit from being pitched more towards

But this is a likeable little teaser of a production. The card-table scenes are particu-larly well brought off: they bristle with tension, intrigue. and the double-dealing that the play suggests is part of the game of life.

Higher hurdles please

he ten members of Phoenix Dance put you in mind of racehorses, champing at the bit in their eagerness to be off and running. So it seems a shame that the current repertory doesn't al-ways provide the Leeds-based company with the highest choreographic hurdles.

The first half of the pro-

gramme is a neatly balanced conceit: three consecutive duets, with scarcely any pause in between. Cornered, created and originally performed by Phoenix dancer Andile Sotiya and former company member Warren Adams, clearly sprang from their own athleticism. With their jack-knife jumps and somersaults. Gee Goodison and Hugh Davis are equally vivid replace ments, seeming to crowd each other even on a bare stage. The dance's few cliches (an opening cry of "Freedom!", a mimetic beating against invisible bars| are easily forgiven.



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Rap artist/poet Jonzi D's Us Must Trust Us is a study of faulty friendship grounded in street life. Clad in the urban uniform of baggy trousers and trainers. Nicola Moses and Maria Ryan make an engaging team. Featuring both voiceover and spoken text, the piece shifts from casual conversation to a state of crisis. Suddenly these young women are bad-mouthing each other "She lusts for everything but trust"), while their previously in-sync, wriggling variations on club dance go pear-shaped. Their repetitious moves reflect a jazzy rap soundtrack.

The Phoenix artistic director Thea Nerissa Barnes's The Last Word is more problematic. Sotiya and Sharon Stern, wheel out a butterfly-backed. two seat chair, pushing and shoving it - and each other around in a prickly search for supremacy. Littered with display-like lifts and throws, their argumentative intimacy "re-mains stubbornly superficial." These two fine dancers need better choreography than this to take advantage of their liquid-limbed power.

Dwight Roden's splashy high-concept ensemble dance. PerigriNations. Too much of the cast's time is spent fussily. toting, tossing, bouncing and rolling about the giant silver balls and cage-like stools designed by Julie Watson. With its rampant flinging and writhing, the only place this Vegasstyle piece seems to be heading towards is oblivion, although it does show off the company's fitness, drive and skill. Trust the dancers, not the dance.

DONALD HUTERA

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The Assessment Market

The Market Child

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CINEMA: With The Deep End of the Ocean Michelle Pfeiffer confirms her intent to shed her delectable-doll image. Giles Whittell reviews the results

Sadder, older, but is it wiser?

has made another very serious film. Her last, A Thousand Acres, told the story of a rancid old father dividing his land, Lear-like, between three adult daughters. It dallied in incest, cancer, child abuse and alcoholism.

This one, The Deep End of the Ocean, involves a mother who loses an adorable threeear-old and doesn't find him for nine years. It's all about shock, grief, remorse, marital everyone involved performs with talent and finesse.

But the image I took away was of Pfeiffer's pencil-thin plucked eyebrows wandering distractedly toward her fringe. It's not just the eyebrows. It's the protruding bones they should be protecting. It's the drawn cheeks, the pale makeup, the scraped-back hair, the pinched nose, the veined temples and the relentlessly pained expression. What happened here? Why is the siren of The Fabulous Baker Boys doing this to herself, and us?

To be fair, these emotional stretch-marks have less to do with Pfeiffer than with Beth Cappadora, whom she plays. They are the utterly convincing features of a woman on the edge of a nervous breakdown. The lost child nightmare is the porst most parents can imagof the novelist or film-maker it has the advantage of leaving grown-ups in the picture to emote, share dialogue and car-

ry along a plot McEwen discovered this in *The Child in Time*, in which the child goes missing in a supermarket and quiet hell ensues. Jacquelyn Mitchard used similar ingredients in the book on which this film is based. Meryl Streep put herself through the wringer in A Cry in the Dork, as did Nicole Kidman in Dead Calm (in which the child dies, flying through a windscreen early on, but the wrestling with guilt is of the genre). And the loss of a child was also the trigger of Nicolas Roeg's 1973 supernatu-



ral classic, Don't Look Now, Pfeiffer's performance is at least as dramatic as Streep's or Kidman's. It opens in a crowded high school reunion in Chicago, to which Beth, as a proud Mum, brings her three children rather than a business card.

When cute Ben goes Awol he leaves only a half-caten sandwich on the hotel floor.

She sleeps for days on end, and the knowledge that she has stopped functioning as a wife to her husband or a mother to her other children only deepens her depression when she wakens — though unlike the rest of the family she refuses to pretend life can go back to normal. In one especially effective scene she breaks out of a mask of forced composure on Christmas Day to rail at her relatives for making light of Ben's absence by bringing

The Deep End of the Ocean is no sop to an ageing sex symbol. Its central performance is real and fearless, but with Pfeiffer there is inevitably a Hello! subtext. Because she was once such a doll, everything she does now is at least

His mother is at first self-possessed enough to describe his sneakers and cap on live TV. but then she goes to pieces. She screams. She bites her husband's wrist involuntarily.

gifts for him.



partty a study in the physical maintenance of a beautiful woman. How does she look? How is she getting on, given that, at 41, she's getting on? To be honest, she looks as if she's had an unnecessary nip and tuck or two. Either that, or

everyone else who goes under the plastic surgeon's scalpel nowadays asks to look like Michelle Pfeiffer. Whichever it is, her taut face and famously bee-stung lips add a continuous note of poignancy ready sombre film. Daily Variety, whose critics

stars found Pfeiffer to be the most commercially reliable of them all, including the \$20 miltion-per-film leading men. Still, she should lighten up a bit. A review of her recent filmography reminds us of The Russia House, with Sean Con-

nery, and Up Close and Per-

are read carefully within

Hollywood, ranked her per-

formance here as one of her

very best and forecast - a healthy few months for it at the box office. There is no rea-

son to doubt the oracle. Amaz-

ingly, a recent survey of A-list

sonal, with Robert Redford, Both were nicely acted, but neither was a barrel of laughs. Next came A Thousand Acres, whose script Pfeiffer's hus-band called "one of the best and most malignant" he had ever seen. Filming it upset her deeply and "put an incredible strain on my marriage because I was so difficult to be around", she said.

She didn't work for a year. but then it was Mitchard's book she chose, optioning and producing it herself and cast-ing herself as Ma Cappadora. She rejected an initial script as too sentimental, hiring Stephen Schiff, who wrote play, for a second attempt.

FREE BOOKS FOR SCHOOLS COMPETITION

Adrian Lyne's Lolita screen-The result focuses overwhelmingly on her character

(Whoopi Goldberg's lesbian detective appears in only a handful of scenes), and it hardly paints her sympathetically. There were times during production." she said recently, "when I said to myself, "Why am I doing this? What was I

Those are very good questions. At one point in the filmher husband warns her that

she seems to be making a career out of being unhappy, and back in real life she is taking the same risk. She can be funny (as in Married to the Mob) and she can still melt the hearts of men, so why not do a good romantic cornedy? She vill, almost. In an all-star version of A Midsummer Night's Dream due out in May, she plays Titania.

THE



Mother in distress: Michelle Pfeiffer digs deep into family trauma --- and emphasises her determination to shed her delectable doll image --- in her new movie The Deep End of the Ocean

US WEEKEND BOX-OFFICE TAKINGS AND ANALYSIS

1 (1) Analyze This (Warner Bros)	15.7m/\$18.4m
2 (-) The Rages Carrie (MGM)	
3 (2) Cruel Intentions (Columbia)	\$7m/\$13m
4 (-) The Corruptor (New Line)	
5 (-) Baby Gentuses (TriStar)	
a (-) The Deep End of the Ocean (Columbia)	
7 (-) Wing Commander (Twentieth Century Fox)	\$5m/-
a (4) The Other Sister (Touchstone)	\$3.9m/\$14.3m
9 (3) SMM (Columbia)	\$3.6m/\$25.3m
10 (6) October Sky (Universal)	\$3.1m/\$16.8m
■ First amount is estimated weekend takings, March 12-14, S	econd amount

is total takings to March 9. Figure in brackets indicates last week's position

 For the second week Robert De Niro dominates the American box office with his Mafia comedy Analyze This. Topearning new release is The Rage: Carrie 2, a sequel released 23 years after Brian De Palma's original. Cruel Inten-tions is a high-school version of Les Liaisons Dangéreuses

impression.
Otherwise it was a question

of waiting for Feinstein to put

the band on hold and switch to

tience was rewarded. As on his

Embraceable You unfurled

to the echo of fragments of

more than a dozen themes, in-

cluding A Foggy Day and Love Wolked In. The member of the

audience who vainly called a

request for But Not For Me im-

mediately heard Feinstein

smuggle a phrase or two into

his haunting version of Love Is

Gershwin album, Michael ond George, clever

a more intimate ambience. Pa-

juxtapositions abound.

TOKENS FOR YOUR SCHOOL



he Times, with Virgin Radio, is giving three schools the chance to win a prize of 100,000 Books for Schools tokens each. These tokens could provide the three winning schools with up to 1,000 books each. (That's almost a library full.)

Registered schools can enter today and all this week. Next Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday your school could be featured on the Chris Evans Breakfast Show between 6.30am-9.30am: Schools which have entered will be chosen at random to take part in this great

Books for Schools competition. Make sure your Books for Schools representative fills in the form, below, and your school could be featured live on the Chris Evans Breakfast Show on Virgin Radio next week.

Postal entries need to arrive by first post on Friday, March 19, 1999, and should be sent to: PO Box 5075, Leighton Buzzard LU7 7GF.

Or fax the form to: 08701 267 571 Or send the information requested on the entry form

via e-mail to: booksforschools@the-times.co.uk

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Our Books for School representative is

CHANGING TIMES

Evergreen songs treated with wit tea dance. Slap That Bass, taken at a more sultry tempo than usual with the guitar and formances are con-cerned, Michael Feindichael Feinstein drums slowly edging into view, was one of the few ensemble numbers to make an

stein has come and gone. But if you missed him, there is always the consolation of a new series of his illuminating "songbook" show on Radio on Friday (7pm). The American pianist's love affair with the golden age of popular song always makes for absorbing radio. Not only does he know the music inside out, he knew many of the craftsmen - from Ira Gershwin to Burton Lane who lived through the rise and fall of an era.

As a performer in his own right he has always been more of an acquired taste, as this Barbican show confirmed. The fastidious diction certainly gives him an edge in conveying the word-play intricately woven into so many vintage songs. He is funny, too - witness his lightning condensa-Yet the voice often lacks colow into their second decade, the

Afghan Whigs from Ohio have had a lean time lately. They re-

main one of the most talented and respect-

ed rock groups to have emerged from the

grunge era. But their poorly promoted al-

burn. 1965, released towards the end of last year, gained none of the attention lav-

ished on recent recordings by contemporaries such as Mercury Rev and Sebadoh,

and they remain an act who can rely, at

This, it seemed, was not deemed good

best, on a cult following in this country.

enough, and at a well-attended show on

the last night of a brief British tour the

singer Greg Dulli started haranguing the

crowd almost from the outset for respond-

ing to the group's performance with insuf-

ficient zeal. When one of the backing sing-

ers stridently weighed in with the same

Barbican

our and resonance once he moves away from intimate ballads. The Best Is Yet To Come and The Tender Trap should really be left to Tony Bennett. Reneath the suave repartee also lies an undeniably sugary

None of this mattered as much when Feinstein played a glorious West End theatre residency a few years ago. But on that occasion he accompanied himself on the piano. his fingers constantly supplying terse asides and syncopations. At the Barbican, on the other hand, he made room for decorous. semi-jazz arrangements for sextet.

The impish Bobby Short, doyen of New York cabaret,

lip, guys

Afghan Whigs

Astoria

induced by the long-winded and self-inflat-

ed nature of the gig. Almost every number

began with an extended vamp incorporat-

ing segments of old soul songs such as

Popa Was A Rolling Stone, Superstinon

in hand, extemporised garrulously on sub-

jects ranging from English cars to the

Meanwhile Dulli, drink and cigarette

and Don't Stop Till You Get Enough.



in a more intimate mood

recent albums, but with an altogether livelier swing band. If Short offers a tantalising hint of the Cotton Club. Feinstein

Here To Stay. At his spontaneous best, he turns a concert hall into a saloon. CLIVE DAVIS Cut out the

"sexy" nature of the B minor chord, at one point spending the best part of 20 minutes introducing various band members.

When the songs eventually got under way there were some immensely powerful performances ranging from the soul-funk groove of Neglekted to the supremely muscular yet tuneful rock riffing of 66 and Crazy. An interminable stretch of "encores" yielded a rip-roaring Citi Soleil followed by a formidable version of the Rolling Stones's Beast Of Burden, which was about the only number in the entire set to be played straight from start to finish.

A good enough singer to make a convincing John Lennon on the soundtrack of the 1994 movie Backbeat. Dulli fulfilled his musical role on the Astoria stage with bullish authority. But as his egotistical monologues became progressively more slurred and less engaging, so the rest of the band appeared to switch off and enthusiasm gradually dwindled.

DAVID SINCLAIR

complaint, you began to wooder for whose benefit the hand imagined the Japa was being staged. Frankly, any lethargy that could be derected among the audience was doubtless

David Powell looks at the rejuvenated Great North Run, launched nationally for the first time today

Running success lifts party mood

FROM a brass band at the start to Status Quo. from a drop in numbers to a record entry last year, from British winners only in the early days to an international roll of honour embracing Olympic champions and world record-

This is the BUPA Great North Run, about which they used to joke in Newcastle "Look at all those people running across the Tyne Bridge. There must be jobs going in

Given the recent redundancies in the North East, the joke may still have life in it, but the annual half-marathon mirrors the other side of the area

 its energy and party spirit.
 Newcastle was named by an American travel agency as the eighth best party city in the world and one of the challenges of a weekend at the Great North Run in October, accordng to Brendan Foster, the the temptations of the Satur-





next morning. The nineteenth Great North Run is launched today in conjunction with The

This is the first time that the event has been launched nationally rather than just locally," Foster said. Gone are the days when the Great North Run was dominated by

In the past two years it has spread its wings. In 1997, for the first time, there were runners from all 120 postal dis-

Last year, after putting the entry form on the Internet, a record overseas entry was achieved, with runners from

For the first ten years, the event drew 80 to 90 per cent of North East. Now, 60 per cent are from outside the area.

First held in 1981, the same year as the inaugural London Marathon, the Great North Run is similar in size, if not London Marathon last year was completed by 29,924 peo-ple; the Great North Run by

The Great North Run does not command the same attention but Foster believes that, by setting out his stall national-



Expansion bridge: Forty thousand competitors make an impressive sight as they pour over the Tyne Bridge during the hugely popular BUPA Great North Run last year

Marathon. "Our aspirations are led by London," Foster said. "The London Marathon is a fantastic event and, if people put us in the same bracket, we would

strength similar to the London

Important in the Great North Run's development is its junior race on the Satur-

My ambition is to see a kid

North Run go on to win the Great North Run," Foster over. Downes won the junior tisaid. Perhaps Philip Downes, fulfil Foster's dream, but, either way, he has set one record

that is unlikely to be equalled winning the junior race, then lining up for the senior event the next day.

Athletes must be jinder 17 to compete in the junior event. To be accepted for the big one, participants must be 17 or

tle on his last day as a 16-yearold and ran the half-marathon; finishing 2,131st, on his 17th birthday.

For ten years, the Great North Run grew to a peak of 32,900 entries in 1991. Then it made a huge mistake, dropped to 26,800 in 1994, but recognised its error and corrected it. When numbers fell it was a consequence of staging the half-marathon world

championships in conjunction

"We frightened people off," Foster said. "They were saying it was no longer the race they loved. Now we don't do anything that unsets customers."

Hence, this year, there will no expansion on the 40,000 entries accented last year, when thousands spent longer in carpark exit queues than it had taken them to run the race. Fosproblem before thinking big-ger. The Great North Run roll. of honour is impressive, including Carlos Lopes, Rob de Castella, Grete Waitz, Rosa Mota, Ingrid Kristiansen, Liz McColgan and Teola

Last year Sonia O Sullivan, the world cross-country champion, and Josiah Thugwane, the Olympic marathon champion, joined them. O'Sullivan

said. They cannot say they

ICE HOCKEY: BRACKNELL SHED TAG OF ALSO-BANS WITH BACK-TO-BACK WINS

Bees put spanner in works as Wheel turns to confront elite favourites face new challenge

SNOW REPORTS

120 120 Good Open Powder

138 160 Good Open Varied 232 255 Good Open Powder

SUDDENLY and unexpectedly, the "group of death" in the Sekonda play-off champion-ship is shaping up to be that containing the champions, Manchester Storm, and Shef-field Steelers, the Challenge Cup finalists, this weekend. Group B had looked like pro-

viding the real drama as eight clubs vie for four places for the climax in Manchester on April 3 and 4. A case for advancement could be made for Nottingham Panthers, Cardiff Devils and Ayr Scottish Eagles, with only Newcastle Riverkings the designated

makeweights.
Bracknell Bees, though, have turned group A into a three-way fight. The supposed also-rans, alongside London, left their mark on the favourites. Manchester and Sheffield, inside 24 hours.

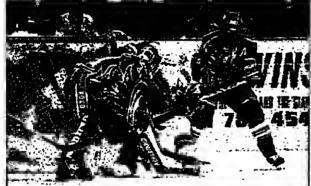
First, they reduced the with a 4-2 victory, then under-

Chergurgi St Anton Canada Late Louise France Aipe d'Huez Raine La Clusaz La Plagne La Tama Les Arcs Megeve Méribel Tignes Val Thorens Val d'Isère Valmorel Italy Cenma Conma Consessantino Norway Gelto

lined why they are Sheffield's jinx team by beating the Steel-ers 4-3. The Steelers, fresh from their 4-3 overtime win in London, had seemed to be returning to something like the force of old, having lost just one of their previous 13 home games, but something in the Sheffield air appears to agree with Bracknell.
This was their third victory

in four visits this season and they have won all but one of their seven meetings. Their hopes of progress are also enhanced by the injuries affecting Manchester Storm:
Brad Rubachuk, Storm's
aggressive talisman of a for-

ward, left Bracknell with his neck in a brace after a collision with the huge Paxton Schulte. He was one of four who missed the 4-1 dismissal of London on Sunday. Storm were so stretched that Darren Hurley needed medical clearance to play after being concussed at



Bracknell. If the doctor had said no, a defenceman would have been drafted into the attacking line.

Nottingham Panthers have made giant strides towards reaching their third final of the campaign. If the Benson and Hedges Cup holders and Challenge Cup finalists take their expected win at home at Newcastle tonight, they can

almost book their place. Ayr's desperate attempt to salvage something from a season of anticlimax proved insufficient against the Panthers' collective drive. They lost 3-2 and then slumped 6-3 in Wales against Cardiff, who have ambitions of making up for their failure to keep the Sekonda Superleague title from Manchester

MOTOR RACING

BAR backs off over liveries

BY KEVIN EASON

THE dispute between British American Racing (BAR) and the FIA, the governing body of Formula One, should be resolved within two weeks after a climbdown by the sport's newest team. BAR faced suspension from

the sport after flouting the rules on tobacco sponsorship during its first grand prix in Australia a fortnight ago. The team launched its cars in the different liveries of two cigarette brands owned by its backers, British American Tobacco.

The FIA was angered when BAR's lawyers complained to the European Union because the liveries were banned. Max Mosley, the FIA president, warned that BAR had "put two fingers up" to Formula. One and was jeopardising

concessions negotiated with governments around the world over tobacco sponsorship because of its aggressive

entry into the sport.
However, Craig Pollock, the
BAR managing director,
apologised to the FIA and said that lawyers had acted without instructions from him. He now has a fortnight to explain his lawyers' actions and prove that the team was not trying to usurp the governing body and rules agreed by all the teams in Formula One.

Mosley said yesterday: "It would not be fair to penalise the team if what Mr Pollock said was correct and lawyers were taking actions he knew nothing about. As long as we have that guarantee, the matter should be closed."

with duel at high speed

MOUNTAIN BIKING: DUAL SLALOM MAKES FIRST APPEARANCE NEXT MONTH IN RAVA SERIES

IMAGINE riding a mountain bike downhill at speeds of up to 45mph over a course of jumps, banked turns and chicanes. Now add a second rider trying to beat you to the bot-torn. That is the dual slalom, or "duel", which is joining the established disciplines of cross country (a full Olympic sport) and downhill in the RAV4 mountain bike series and

national championships. The seven-event series, which begins on Saturday at Cheddar Gorge, Somerset, with a downhill-only meeting, determines national champions and international squads. The duel makes its debut at the meeting on April 24 and 25 at Hopton, Shropshire. Will Longden, sixth in the

duel World Cup Series, hopes his particular speciality will

also claim Olympic status. and ranking points, but virtu-"Downhill and duel are more ally anyone can take part in the adrenaline, 'extreme sports' side," he said. "Cross

country is the athletic side.

"In duel, the top 32 based on timed descents go head-tohead until there are only two left. It's supposed to be noncontact, but there is contact, as you can imagine." Not just with other competitors: plenty of contact is made with the ground, trees and other objects, so that as few as 30 per cent of the starters make it to

the bottom without mishap. Each event in the RAV4 series may attract as many as 400 entrants, divided into categories such as elite, veterans, masters, junior and "fun". The higher levels require licences

By Nick Szczepanik

the lower categories of cross country, often simply by turning up on the day; downhill, being a timed discipline, requires qualification via regional competitions.

With the price of bikes at the top of the range approaching £4,000, sponsorship is, of course, a necessity for the elite group. Helen Mortimer, whose third place in the duel in the Grundig World Cup in France last year was part of a best-ever performance by a British woman, wears an out-

fit sporting as many logos as that of a Formula One driver. "It's difficult for women to earn a living out of it," she said. "Men have better spon-

more women are sponsored percentage-wise, because they get more coverage," she said.
"They can't jump as well, but possibly are more photogenic: most readers of mountain-bik-

sorship - more money - but

ing magazines are men."
Although she would only admit to making "a reasonable fiving", it was enough to allow her to spend three months training in Australia,

In the clite category, and downhill and 50 cross-country riders are professional to some extent. No more than ten exist only on sponsorship and the retainer paid by teams, usually run by bike manufacturers such as Cient III. Others and such as Giant UK. Others rely on prize-money, appearances an entrepreneurial approach is required in what is a new sport still inventing itself. According to Justin Lorentz, of Mountain Biking UK maga-

zine, which runs a team that includes Longden and Morti-mer, one of the best uses of funding is to enable British rid-ers to travel to Europe, where the locals are able to ride regularly against wider fields and on longer and steeper, and so more challenging, courses Lorentz finds it encouraging

that Toyota UK is sponsoring the Mountain Bike Series for a second year. "It's only been 20 years from the first bikes by ing cobbled together to it be coming a multimillion-pound sport," he said.

Attendances of around 2,000 are expected for the series events, but sponsors can expect to benefit from increasing TV coverage that will help, but not drive, the sport's development. "It's a foot in the door thing, then a momentum thing," Lorentz said. "It's better that the sport's good first, then televised later."

Longden said: "I think it could become a lot more popular."

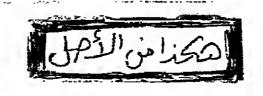
lar, especially the duel."

Because of the danger inherent in so-called extreme sports? "If you think of the danger, you wouldn't bother." Longden said.

"I've been racing since I was five. I've broken an arm, dislo-cated a shoulder and smashed. my knee up. It sounds a le but over 24 years it's not bad

vision for futur

The Giant team riders, Lewis King, left, and Mark Davis, take a jump on the 'duel' course.



leltic build the

RUGBY UNION

ırmstron

returns to

probler

position

Armstrong returns to · fill problem position

HAVING capped two scrum halves in one international against Italy ten days ago. Scotland have reverted to the tried and trusted Gary Armstrong for the Five Nations Championship meeting with Ireland at Murrayfield on Saturday. Armstrong, who has made 43 previous appearances for his country, has recovered from the elbow injury that forced him to miss the victory over Italy. He also regains the eaptaincy from Eric Peters.

In Armstrong's absence, lain Fairley, of Kelso and Edin-burgh Reivers, made his debut against Italy, as did Graeme Burns as a replacement when Fairley hurt his shoulder. Armstrong, 32, is the only change to a 22-man squad an-nounced in Edinburgh yesterday and is likely to be the one change to the team that will be anamed tomorrow.

Jim Telfer, the coach, seems certain to stick with an otherwise settled side, the benefits of which are readily appar-ent. It makes a huge differ-ence." Telfer said. "It means we can get to work on the training ground straightaway. The guys who are not in the team are not there, because, at the moment, they are not good

Into that category fall Mat-thew Proudfoot, the South African-born prop, who has yet to recover full match fitness after his lengthy absence through injury. Even if he had been fully fit, Telfer said that the form of Paul Burnell, a survivor from the 1990 grand-slam team, made him an automatic

Gordon Simpson, the New Zealand-born flanker who was expected to establish himself in the Scotland pack this season, but whose prospects have been blighted by injury, will start another comeback for a Scottish Districts XV against the French Military in

Glasgow tonight. Armstrong thought he had broken his elbow after an incident involving Tom Smith two weeks ago. and Telfer will be relieved that the he did not do so, especially as Bryan Redpath will miss the remainder of the season because of his ankle injury. With Andy Nicol having only recently resumed playing. Scotland's scrum half locker looked decidedly bare. Having captained Scotland against Wales and England. Armstrong watched the game against Italy on television. Italy seeemd to break through quite easily, and we will be looking to work on that this week. There is plenty to work

His words were echoed by Telfer. "We were disappointed at how we played. The players fell below the standards they had set themselves, especially at the start of the second half. We are capable of scoring some very good tries but we got sucked into the middle far too easily.

Wales provide the opposi-tion for Italy in Treviso this weekend and Graham Henry, Telfer's counterpart, has made one change to the side that won so handsomely in Paris. Gareth Thomas, of Cardiff, is preferred to Matthew Robinson, of Swansea, on the right wing. Thomas, the scorer of 14 tries in 31 appearances, came on as a replacement for Robinson against France. Surgery on an injured shoulder ruled him out of the earlier games, against Scotland and Ireland.

Gareth has always been our first choice on the wing, but it is unfortunate that any-one should be left out after the win in Paris," Henry said. "Matthew had a disappointing game against France and clearly international rugby is a learning process for him."

Clive Woodward will today announce the England side to play France at Twickenham on Saturday. His one dilemma is finding a replacement for Paul Grayson at fly half. Mike Catt is the obvious choice and his selection would cause minimum disruption, but the temptation might be to switch Jonny Wilkinson to a position he is expected to make his own in the not too distant future. However, in the contin-ued absence of Will Greenwood, that does not appear a

Oswestry have appealed against the decision to dock them 90 league points for playing a a suspended player under an alias. The Shropshire side, who had led the North Midlands second division, were found guilty of including Ross Roberts, a former Wrexham centre, under the name of Terry Smith. Roberts was banned for a year last season for assaulting a referee.



Chapman was the leading tryscorer in the English game last season but now finds himself on the rugby scrapheap

Chapman cast out into cold

Tine months ago, Dominic Chapman made his debut for England against Australia after a memorable first season with Richmond in which he finished as the top tryscorer in the Allied Dunbar Premiership. This week he is putting his flat oo the market, selling his car and signing on at the social security office in Kingston. He is among the first

victims of professional rug-

by's recession, but certainly

will not be the last. That will he of scant consolation to Chapman, 23, as he attempts to pull together the threads of his life that unrayelled so suddenly last week realistic opdon at present. when his contract was terminated by the administrators at Richmond. Today he meets with the others who suffered a similar fate — Laurent Cabannes, Adrian Davies and

Jim Hamilton-Smith. Over lunch they will discuss what they should or can, do. They have approached the Professional Rugby Players Association for help, but in their hearts they all realise that there is little prospect of

FOOTBALL: NEW CHIEF EXECUTIVE HAS AMBITIOUS PLANS FOR CHAMPIONS

Mark Souster on a player suffering the effects of the chill winds starting to blow through professional rugby

wasn't going to get many games," he said. For some

reason, which he was never

explained to him, he fell out of

favour with John Kingston.

the Richmond director of

rugby. The situation deterio-

rated rapidly. Chapman be-

came disillusioned by his ina-

bility to impress Kingston and

his confidence suffered. The

writing was on the wall and

he knew he would not be

retained this summer, but had

receiving any money, let alone finding another club in the present climate.

"It was pretty brutal," Chapman said yesterday. "We had been called to attend a meeting with the administrators last Wednesday at which we were to he told what was happening. An hour beforehand the phone went, and I was told I was out there and then. I asked what I was going to get, and was told 'absolutely nothing

Chapman scored 31 league and cup tries last season after moving from Harlequins, a strike-rate that had Ireland and England coveting his services. He returned from England's summer tour like many, chastened by the experience but determined to

improve as a player. "I started the season fitter. faster and stronger than ever. But it soon became clear that I hoped to use the remaining three months of his contract to sort out his future.

Now he has no idea which direction his life will take. He abandoned a university degree on leaving Harlequins and has no other professional qualifications. "I haven't a chie what I'm going to do. I am not looking forward to signing on," he said.

He denies claims made by Kingston at the weekend that he is about to retire from rugby, mentally scarred by his experience in Australia, and may try to carry on in the professional game. "Maybe things will get better after the World Cup," he said.

SPEEDWAY

Van Straaten relishes uncertainty

AFTER a winter of discontent, the season that opened tast night at Reading is a vital one for speedway. The British Speedway Promoters' Association (BSPA), which governs the sport has changed its chairman, replacing Terry Russell with Chris van Straaten, and decided to reduce the standard of the Elite League, its flagship

competition.

The ensuing manoeuvres from clubs descended into farce. Belle Vue announced they would drop into the Premier League before realising they could not field a competi-tive team at the lower level. They swapped places with King's Lynn, who then decided they could not afford to

stay in the top flight and dropped down.

Swindon, the Elite League club which insisted on pay controls at the start of the winter before realising their riders would not agree to the new rates, then declared their intention either to step into the Premier League or to pull out of speedway. Finally, King's Lynn, who had un-earthed further investment that included a deal to bring in Tony Rickardsson, the world champion, agreed to re-turn to the Elite League and

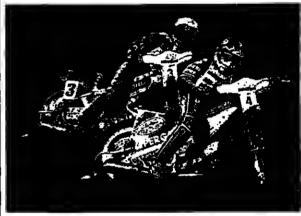
replace Swindon. There was, at least, some good news for the Premier League with the rebirth of Workington after an 11-year absence and, at the very last minute. Berwick were rescued from apparent closure. Forture lists were released just days before the start of

the campaign — which began with a challenge match at the Smallmead Stadium between Reading and Newport last night - and team strength controls forced clubs to sideline several top-class riders, notably Billy Hamill, the world champion

of three years ago. Van Straaten, however, enters his first season in optimistic mood, believing the knock-on effect of change is a necessary evil. "It has been a long, hard winter but when we come to the starting tapes we will have all of last year's tracks and one extra one because Working opened," he said. Workington

"I'm excited about what is ahead. We have evenly matched teams and it would take a brave man to predict the winners of this year's leagues. There is uncertainty again, which is something we missed last year when evetyone had their money on lpswich before the season start-

The reduced strength of the Elite League has enabled Hull and Peterborough to step up from the Premier. both under new promotions. and the title race is likely to be close as there is little between any of the ten teams.



Rickardsson, the world champion, to ride for King's Lynn

THEEHAN on BRIDGE

By Robert Sheehan, bridge correspondent

Today's hand comes from the Reisinger Board-a-Match Teams, one of the more popular events in the American bridge calendar. This is a teams event with matchpointed pairs scoring. All you have to do is score better than your opponents at the other table: that could be just 20 points better or 2,000 - it's all the same thing. It makes for some very exciting bidding and play but is hard on the nerves. Dealer West Game all

> 4 A 1097 V A 104 ..

♦ J863 **4** 52 . ♥ KQJ952 ♦ 54 072 ♦ AKQ109 4 AK87 3 H Pass

Contract: Five Diamonds by South, Lead: six of hearts.

North would have done better to bid Three No-Trumps over his partner's overcall but his actual choice led to a respectable contract Superficially, the contract

does not seem interesting. since eleven tricks are lay-down when trumps split 2-2, but declarer does not know that, remember.

Suppose you win the ace of hearts at trick one. If you draw two rounds of trumps you are fine if they are 2-2, but suppose they are 3-1. You cash your top clubs and ruff a club in the dummy but you can't get back to your hand to take a second club ruff without letting the opponent in to draw a third trump. On the other hand, if you take a club ruff before drawing trumps you may lose a club ruff to East.

The solution to your prob-lem is very simple: duck the first heart - there is no dan-ger even if hearts are 7-1; since even if the defence take a heart ruff you can discard a spade on the ace of hearts eventually. When East takes the first trick and plays a second heart, you can win and draw two rounds of trumps. Once trumps are 2-2 you can claim eleven tricks but, even if trumps do not split, your duck of the first heart has given you communications back to your hand via a heart ruff to arrange the sec-

WORD-WATCHING

MOUFFLON a. A muffet b. A Muppet

NOTAPHILY a. A colt

b. Collecting bank notes c. Celeb-worship HELIODOR a. A sun spot

c. Golden beryl Answers on page 50



BY RAYMOND KEENE CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Cambridge victories

Today I conclude coverage of the annual Varsity match be-tween Oxford and Cambridge Universities. Oxford won no games and lost three. The game which won the brilliancy prize was published here yesterday. Today I give the re-maining two Cambridge wins. White: Benjamin Savage Black: James Vigus Varsity Match 1999

Torre Attack



White: Alfred Nathan

Black: Emily Howard Varsity Match 1999 Caro-Kann Defence

Nc3 Bd3 Qxd3 Qxd3 Nge2 0-0 Bxd3 e6 Qb6 Qe6 Qxd3 Ne7 Nf5 Nd7 Be7 27 Roti7-28 Rb1 29 f5 30 gd5 31 f6+ 32 Ne2 33 Rh1 34 Rg1 35 Nx55 36 Exg5 37 K/3+ Black rester

Keene online

You can send me your queries. rou can send me your queries, puzzles, problems and games direct by email. The address is keenechess@aol.com. The best contributions from Times readers will be published either here or in the Saturday Times Weekend column.

☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday

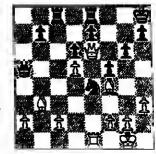
In yesterday's report it should have been stated that James Vigus is from Clare College. .

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Geller - Knop-

pert, Berlin 1991. It is always a good idea to be aware of all the features of a position even when there are distractions. Here White has a promising attack against the black king, but it was the unguarded black queen that proved deci-sive. How did White continue? Solution on page 50



tish club when he becomes a free agent in the summer. Shef-field Wednesday, Marseilles and Ajax are also interested. The Scottish Football Associterms of Europe," he said. ation yesterday fined Dick Advocaat, the Rangers manager. £1.000 and "severely censured" him for his behaviour against Dunfermline at East End Park last month.

Brown a boost

By PHIL GORDON

if it is a European league."
MacDonald has spent most

board at Celtic, which includes

Brian Quinn, a former Bank of England director.

abroad within the next two

months, insisted that this was

the kind of structure football clubs need to maximise their

potential. "Celtic has to grow if

it wants to be a success in

Europe," he said. "We have

built a good platform over the

last five years, but you need

the resources and business

ability to market the product."

Rangers yesterday entered the race to sign the Dutch for-ward, Michael Mols, 27, the

Dutch forward, from FC

Utrecht. Mols was shown

around ibrox in a bid to per-

suade him to choose the Scot-

McCann, who is moving

CELTIC yesterday introduced a new chief executive, who He said: "Celtic have always been part of the European scene and we must try to get back the great success of the Sixties and Seventies. Howev-er, the dynamic of football ecopromised to take the Scottish champions to the heights that he scaled in the business nomics are changing. Celtic

"vision for future

Allan MacDonald, the manneed to be part of that, especialaging director of British Aerospace, was brought to Celtic Park by Fergus McCann, the outgoing chairman, who deof his working life with British Aerospace. where he was scribed the 47-year-old recruit responsible for the Jetstream as "someone who will do the aircraft, and was appointed OBE in 1996 for services to job much better than I have aviation. His appointment heightens a blue-chip plc McCann, the majority share-

holder at Celtic, has a remit that straddles both the plc and football club, and only last month appointed Frank O'Callaghan, a prominent hotelchain executive, to take over as Chairman of the plc. What McCann, O'Callaghan and now MacDonald share, apart from their success in various business enterprises, is their lifelong love of Celde, which they can now indulge in a bid

to restore the club to its former

position of power. All were young men when Celtic won the European Cup in 1967 and reached another final three years later and MacDonald wants that prestige to return, hoping to better Manchester United's rebirth of the Nineties. "I want to build on the foundations here and develop Celric plc into the most successful British club. in all regards, but especially in

MacDonald, who retained his Celtic season ticket despite living in London, was a teenager when Celtic won the Europe an Cup but does not have a romantic notion of the future.

Celtic build their McAllister gives

GARY MCALLISTER has revealed that the ankle injury he sustained against Blackburn Rovers last Saturday is not serious, which is a great boost for Craig Brown, the Scotland manager, and Coventry City, his FA Carling

Premiership club. McAllister, 34, feared the worst after limping off the field at Highfield Road, but X-rays have shown nothing worse than bruising and swell-ing and McAllister is "very hopeful" of returning against

Arsenal on Saturday.
He said there would be "no an championship games with Bosnia and the Czech Repub-

the squad by Brown.

McAllister has been in



By Our Sports Staff

mer. Gordon Strachan, the Coventry manager, will be

heartened by the news from his midfield player, as his side remain in relegation trouble despite a recent revival.

problem" with the ankle in relation to Scotland's Europelic at the end of the month if, as expected, he is recalled to

prime form in recent weeks for Coventry after putting behind him a nine-month layoff with a knee injury, which prevented him playing in the World Cup finals in France last sum-



McAllister: on the mend

A relieved McAllister said yesterday: "There is nothing broken or fractured in any way. We will give things a couple of days to settle down and I am very hopeful of being

fit to play at Arsenal on Saturday. I'm generally a quick healer. "I have to admit the ankle looked horrendous on Saturday and was really badly swollen. That's why I was taken straight to hospital when I had to come off in the

second half. "I'm so relieved, because the last thing I wanted was any more bad news after being out of action for the best part of a year with the knee injury."

McAllister has always harboured hopes of earning an international recall after missing out on France 1998 and his form, together with injury trou-bles for Scotland, could herald his return. Brown said: "I thought McAllister might be finished at this level, but he has battled back and has been playing brilliantly."

McAllister said: "It's nice

when the Scotland manager says things like that and, in terms of my fitness, there will be no problem at the end of the month. Anyone who has known me for any length of time knows I never talk about my own form. I let others do that and first and foremost in my mind is the Arsenal game. Scotland is a fortnight away."

By Philip Howard

HAWKSHAW a. A falcon b. A dead leaf c. A detective

c. A woolly

Hoping fo





Istabraq, left, brushed aside French Holly, right, with apparent ease at Leopardstown but Murphy is hopeful the tables will be turned this afternoon

Istabraq tests Murphy's Law

IF A man begins with certain-ties, he shall end in doubts; but if content to begin with doubts, he shall end in certainties. Punters would do well to remember Francis Bacon's counsel at the Cheltenham Festival, where the credulous seldom finish in credit especially in view of the fact that they start with apparently the biggest certainty of the Few National Hunt stars of

recent years have conveyed the same swagger as Istabraq, whose defence of the Smurfit Champion Hurdle today has appeared impregnable since he flaunted his brilliance over French Holly at Leopardstown in January. He is quoted as low as 2-1 on to justify "Festi-val banker" status for the third year running. Yesterday, however, the trainer of French Holly sought to embolden those who reach their certainties by the harder road.

Ferdy Murphy is not a trainer who puffs his hopes with vanity or delusion. His resuvat teorio can boast three winners at the past three Festivals from just Ireland and each time has run

Cheltenham

Festival

eight runners) reveals the hard bedrock to the Irish wits that afford him such ease of manner. On that same foundation he has built the earnest belief that French Holly - humiliated in Dublin, where Charlie Swan produced Istabraq on the bridle while grinning at the grandstand - can gain his revenge on home soil.

Indeed, the exiled Irishman believes that his adopted base in Yorkshire gives him a very "He has run three times in below our expectations," be said. "Each time he has come back a little dead in himself. He spends almost all his time turned out and it wouldn't have been ideal for him to spend 24 hours stuck in a

lorry."
The giant French Holly certainty endured a tiring journey. Originally due to be flown to Ireland, he was stranded by fog and sent back to Middleham; halfway through his supper he was scrambled back into the horsebox to make a dash for a lastminute vacancy on the ferry. At his best, French Holly

can maintain a furious gallop and still find extra off the bridle. In Ireland, his re-sponse to Istabraq's accelera-tion seemed tame compared with the ravenous final halfmile he produced in, say, the Christmas Hurdle at Kempton or in the Royal & SunAlliance Novices' Hurdle at the Festival last year.

Murphy is sanguine. "I said to Adrian [Maguire] that he squeeze at the second last and might boil over. So we had to a slap to see how much was in make sure they had to train

EXPERTS' VIEW

the tank. We didn't want to leave everything behind in Ire-land. If Istabraq went by easily, he wasn't to have a hard Everything we've planned for is tomorrow.

"The whole idea of going over there was to make sure Istabraq had a race before Cheltenham. My lad has a fantastic temperament and the him properly, not just fiddle around with him as they could before Leopardstown last year. They more or less left him alone then, but we wanted to make sure they needed him at 90 per cent rather than 75."

Andrew Thornton, absent then through injury, is back in the saddle today and presumably he will try to draw the favourite's sting from the top of the hill. "Both horses are obviously effective at Cheltenham but French Holly will prefer it to Leopardstown," Murphy said. "He's fresh and - as well as he was before Cheltenham last year." On that occasion French

Holly trounced his fellow novices. True, he has dropped in distance but has already shown his flair over two miles round the sharp, flat course at Kempton. With the dead ground ex-

pected to bleed the stamina on the final climb to the line, this time French Holly will surely give Istabraq something more closely resembling a run for reason enough to begin the Festival with doubts.

THE BIG RACE FIELD

SMURFIT CHAMPION HURDLE CHALLENGE TROPHY 3.15 (Grade L.£138,000: 2m 110yd) (14 runners) BELLATOR 17 (D.G.S) Miss V Williams 8-12-0 Record: 3 wins from 13 starts, prize-money £38,230 Owner: P Richardson Record: 3 wins from 13 starts, in bash year's race. His efforts Running on in sixth when brought down at the finel flight in last year's race. His efforts this sesson seem to confirm he would prefer a much stiffer test of stamina.

1111-4F2 BLOWING WIND 17 (B.BF.C.D.G.S) M Pipe 612-0 R Da Owner: P Deal 4 wins from 18 starts, prize-money £69,537
Landed some big bets when winning the County Hurdle hera 12 months ago, Has not essed as anticipated though and has been rejected by stable jocksy Tony McCoy. CITY HALL 31 (V.D.G.S) Mrs V Ward 5-12-0 ... Owner: Mrs R Key and Mrs V Ward 2 wins from 9 starts, prize-money £50,189

Front-running grey who found only Upgrade too strong in the Triumph Hurdle last year and ran a cracker in the Tote Gold Trophy at Newbury a month ago. Each-way claims. FRENCH HOLLY 51 (CD.F.G.S) F Murphy 8-12-0__ Owner: K Flood 6 wice from 14 starts, prize-money £130,485
The top novice lest season and has progressed again. Flattered to finish within a length of Istabreq at Leoperdstown in Januray but may again give him most to do.

GREY SHOT 19 (CD.G.S) | Balding 7-12-0 ... 5 wins from 6 starts, prize-money £83,483 Smert stayer on the Flat. Has not always looked a natural over timber but he won over course and distance in December and will be suited by the drying ground. PSTABRAQ 51 (CD.F.G.S) A P O Brien (ire) 7-120 CF Swan 2 14 wins from 16 starts, £485,185

Owner: J P McManus

Emphatic winner last year and has looked even better this season. Will be the shock
of the meeting if this outstanding chempion fails to successfully defend his title. MIDNIGHT LEGEND 19 (D.F.G.S) O Nicholson 8-12-0 _____ A Dobbin 119 Owner: Mrs H Clarke 4 wire from 6 runs, prize-money £68,051.
Former stallion who has run with credit this season. Could not peg back Grey Shot at Wincanton last time though and that suggests he will be a supporting player:

MISTER MOROSE 80 (D.G.S) N Twiston Devices 9-12-0 ____C Llewellyn 145 Owner: Mrs J Mould 5 wins from 12 starts, pitze-money £44,841.

Reverts to hundles efter an unsuccessful spell over fences – something Beech Road did when winning 1989. Goes well fresh so do not be put off by his lengthy absence.

5 wins from 11 starts, £62,672 Owner: 0 Sharkey

5 wins from 11 starts, £62,672

Finished a close third in the Triumph Hurdle lest year and has trained on this campally Twice put firmly in his place by istabraq, however, and would prefer softer ground. THEATREWORLD 24 (BF.D.S) A P O'Brien (Ire) 7-12-0......

Owner: Mrs J Magnier 6 wins from 27 starts, prize-money £172,535 Runner-up for the past two years. Overhauled more positively ridden opponents late on lest year and similar tactics may not reep such a reward this time. TTUTCHEV 31 (BF.CD.G.S) O Nicholson 642-0 ... Owner: Liers Poker Partnership 4 wins from 13 starts, prize-money £38,329
Travels strongly in his races but found little off the bridle when soundly besten at.

Mede virtuelly all to win the Triumph Hurdle last year. Those exertions seem to have taken their toll this seeson, however, as he has not reproduced that form since. ZAFARABAD 51 (C.D.G.S) D Nicholson 5-12-0...

Owner: Mrs E Beins 5 wins from 9 starts, prize money £64,657
No metch for Istabraq or French Holly at Leoperdstown last month and no obvious reason why he will turn the tables. Would be better served by a longer distarice. . LADY CRICKET 22 (8-G.S) M Pipe 5-11-9

Owner, O Johnson 6 wins from 13 starts, prize-money £103.179
Main hope of champion pair Pipe and McCoy. Ex-French made looked an exciting prospect
when winning on her British debut but was less convincing in a moddling race latest. BETTING: Coral: 1-2 Istabraq, 5-1 French Holly, 12-1 Theatreworld, 16-1 Lady Cricket, 25-1 Grey Shot, 28-1 Blowing Wind Normadic, 33-1 Bellator, City Holl, 40-1 Midnight Legend, Tlutchev, Zafarabad, 66-1 Mister Morroed, Upgrade.

Ladbrokes: 1-2 Istabraq, 9-2 French Holly, 10-1 Thestreworld, 18-1 Lady Cricket, 20-1 Blowing Wind, 33-1 Grey Shot, Nomadic, 40-1 Bellator, City Hall, Zafarabad, 50-1 Midnight Legend, Tiutchev, 66-1 Mister Morose, Upgrade: Tota: 1-2 Istabraq, 9-2 French Holly, 12-1 Theotreworld, 16-1 Lady Cricket, 25-1 Grey Shot, 33-1 Blowing Wind, City Hall, Zafarabad, 40-1 Nomedic, Tutchev, 50-1 Midnight Legend, Mister Morose, 66-1 Bellator, Upgrade. William Hilt: 1-2 Istabreq, 9-2 French Holly, 14-1 Theamsworld, 16-1 Lady Cricket, 25-1 Blowing Wind, 33-1 Bellator, City Hall, Gray Shot, Trutchev, Zafarabad, 40-1 Midnight Legend, Nomadic, 66-1 Upgrade, 100-1 Mister Morose. 1998: ISTABRAQ 6-12-0 C F Swan (3-1 fav) A P O'Brien (ire) 18 ran

Dobbin faces fitness test

TONY DOBBIN has an appointment with the doctor at Cheltenham today before learning if he will be passed fit to ride Midnight Legend in the Champion Hurdle after a

fall at Taunton yesterday. Dobbin was unseated from Flahive's First at the third Challenge Cup Handicap

Hurdle and appeared to be

kicked by another runner. has a bruised knee where he Missed The Boat, as he lay on the ground.

The course doctor, Jeremy Budd, ruled Dobbin out of action for the remainder of the afternoon and made a red entry in his medical book. which means that the rider doctor today.

was kicked and will have to see the doctor at Cheltenham before he can ride." Dobbin, however, is optimistic. He said: "My knee is

sore but it's been iced and I'm hopeful there will be no probride The Butterwick Kid in

Budd said: "Tony Dobbin the Stakis Casinos Final.

Bosuns Mate can set sail in finale

2.00: Traditionally a good race for the Irish, who have won four of the past eight runnings. They again mount a strong challenge, with Cardinal Hill and Joe Mac heading the betting. Cardi-nal Hill found Alexander Banquet just too strong at Fairy-house last time, where he spoilt his chance with some sloppy jumping. Joe Mac failed to last home up the hill in the bumper at the Festival last year and his stamina will again he tested to the full. Hors La Loi III, trained by François Doumen for his three wins, has now joined Martin Pipe and is open to improvement, but may prefer softer ground. THE FLY was close to top class on the Flat, finishing fifth on the Derby and third in the St Leger. He looked a natural for the winter game when jumping fluently on his debut at Newbury, and can make his speed count here.

2.35: A fierce early pace is assured here, with Nipper Reed, Aghawadda Gold, Wynyard Knight and Gris D'Estruval all at their best when making the running. That should set the race up for a strong finisher, and eference is for TRESOR DE MAL He was beaten a head by Flagship Uberalles in a match at Warwick last time, and is now 4lb worse off, but will be better suited by the way this is run and can reverse the form. Cockney Lad. a usefui hurdler, could run well at a big price.

3.15: Istabraq sauntered home by 12 lengths from his stablemate, Theatreworld a year ago. and anyone who saw his demolition of FRENCH HOLLY at Leopardstown in January will find it hard to believe that the champion can be beaten. However, a combination of a bad journey to Ireland and having to make the running counted against French Holly that day. He should have no such problems here with City Hall, Grey Shot and Upgrade likely to force the early pace, and French Holly can floor the favourite. Lady Cricket (unsuited by small field when unimpressive at Fontwell last time) and Tiutchev

and can he forgiven his last run when pulled up at Sandown as he returned with a nasal discharge. With Richard Dun-woody on board, he rates a good

4.30: Time For A Run has fin-ished second and third respectively in the past two renewals of this race, and has been given some respite by the handicap-per. Clinton has won two weak novice chases at Hereford and Warwick and faces a jump in class here, while Linden's Long has looked better than ever this season but has the weight to match. Wandering Light won over four miles at the Festival er in the weights and has recently joined the Pipe stable.

5.05: Galant Moss has been heavily backed in recent days and is open to improvement now that he tackles this longer trip. However, he is unlikely to offer any value, and preference is for an inadequate trip at Wincanton last time, he has solid claims judged on his earlier successes here and at Newbury. Moreover. he has scope to be better still.

(ruined chance by going wide around bends when favourite for Tote Gold Trophy at Newbury) look best of the outsiders.

3.55: Step On Eyre is unbeaten in three starts on soft ground this term, but this represents his stiffest task. Kadou Nonantais suffered his only defeat this season when trying to give 19lb to the useful Majadou, but his tendency to make the odd mistake may cost him dear in this company. Unguided Missile defied top weight in this last year and will go well if the ground dries out. NAHTHEN LAD has a good record at Cheltenham (two wins and a third from four starts).

last season, and needed the run when third to Ramallah at Towcester. He will go well, but TELL THE NIPPER makes more appeal. Fourth in the Wil-liam Hill National Hunt Chase a year ago, he is now a stone low-

BOSUNS MATE. Beaten over

ROB WRIGHT

2.00 The Fly 3.55 Nahthen Lad 2.35 Tresor De Mai 4.30 Tell The Nipper 3.15 French Holly 5.05 BOSUNS MATE (nap)

Timekeeper's top rating: 2.35 AGHAWADDA GOLD. Our Irish correspondent: 2.00 Cardinal Hill. 2.35 His Song. 3.15 Istabraq. 4.30 Time For A Run. 5.05 Shannon Gale.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT (SOFT IN PLACES) TOTE JACKPOT MEETING SIS

101 113143 GOOD TIMES 13 (BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) 8 Hail 12-0 & West (7) 8

Racecard number Six-ligure form (F—felt P—pulsed up U—unsealed nder B—brought down S—tipped up R—retused D—disqualified) Horse's name Days since last outing. Fit flat. (B—binkers. V—visor. H—hood. E—Eyenheld First Park of the Control of the Con V-visor. H-hood. E-Eyeshield C-course winner D-distance winner C4

2.00 CITROEN SUPREME MOVICES HURDLE (Grade L £45,960; 2m 110 vd) (20 runners) 101 12-1411 ALL GONG 46 (C.D.G.S) (A Speciment) N Hundurson 5-11-8 __ M A Pitzperald 8

(Write, cracys and white chiped rate)

211 ARCTIC FANCY 27 (5) (Cool Castomers) J 6 Smyth-Ostourne 8-11-6 W Marston 100
(Yellow, black hoop, cherrons an sierver, hooped cap) 1 AUETALER 25 (5) (Aniekt Hombres) M Price 5-11-8 __________ G Bradley 87 (Red, white sleeves, sed spots and spots on cap)

(Dark green, dark green cap, light green star)

108 30-4006 COPPER SHELL 11 (Galfagher Equinu Lish Mars I, Jened 5-11-2 ________ 8 Powell
(Emerald green and white stripes, emerald green sterves, write armiets, orange cap)

109 1-12142 HOH WANDER 20 (CDLF.S) (D Allgord) C Mann 7-11-8 ________ J Magge 1

(Red, black cleavors, white sterves, black armiets, white cap)

110 12-11 JOS MAC 79 (D.S) (J McManus) C Rocke (RE) 5-11-8 _______ C D'Dwyer

(Emerald green and orange Rooped, shifts cap) 3-21132 PERFECT VERUE 10 (8: 5) (Maint Partiestib) in Headeson 6-11-8 , 18 Kananagh (Crange, black disc, halved sleeves, black cap)
1-10113 PROMMERT PROPLE 17 (8F.D.G.S.) in Twiston-Davies, 8-11-8 C Unwellyn 123
(Red and royal blue street, 6)th blue sleeves, red and royal blue sentered cap)
00-1332 RATHEANIN PRINCE 23 (8F.D.G.S.) (T Cottant) 0 Hughes (8F) 7-11-8, 8 Hughes 77
(Red, black stars, black sleeves, green cap) (Red, black stars, black sleeves, green cap)
P-1011 RICARDO 10 (0,5) (P Whelan & E Statury) Mrs. J Placen 5-11-8 _ il WiSiareson 122
(Red and yellow (helmol), white sleeves, red armiets, black cap)
PP SAN SURU (4 (8) (Stall Jeany) C Voo Der Reche (658) 5-11-8 _ ____ Mrs M Keller
(Yellow, white clamports, white sleeves, yellow cap, white diamonts)
SILENCE REGGIS 137F (Roach Foods Ltd.) P Necholls 5-17-8 _ ____ J Tozzerd _ (Red, while cross beits, hooped sieeres and size on cap) THE FLY 31 (D.6) (Hon Mrs. J. Corbet 8. J. Harcom) 6 Hiss 5-11-8 ... J. Osborne 86 (Royal blue, salver shiped pleeves, blue and red hooped cap) 11/61 WITHER OR WHICK 31 (D.S) (R Sectal) W P Muller: (RE; 8-11-6 ___ 8 Walsh

PP TREASURE CHEST 5 (V) (5 Heldissi & A Line) M Pape 4-11-0 ____R Greene (Plat, dash blue starz, plati sleeves) BETTING: 9-4 Carolout Hell. 7-2 Jun Mar., 5-1 The Fly., 13-2 Hors Ly Loi III, 8-1 Colonel Yeager, 12-1 Austabe, 14-1 Wilter Or Which, 18-1 All Group, 25-1 Hoft Imager, Prostatest Profile, Ricarda, 33-7 Archit Farry, Strong Lad, Perfect Venue, Rabbason Prince, Silence Reigns, 50-1 Carlys Quest, Copper Stell, 100-1 Trescure Chest, 200-1 San Seru.

1998: FRENCH SALLERONA 5-11-3 G Bradley (16-1) P Firm (RE) 30 cm.

(Emerald green, royal blue steeves, omerald green sap, white star) 2.35 GUINNESS ARKLE CHALLENGE TROPHY CHASE (Grade E £57,300: 2m) (14 runners)

206 005-115 NRPPER REED 31 (D.R.S) (is report) a Simpson 9-11-5 ________ negame 1-3(Brown and orange (quadworld), emerald green showns)

209 4962304 NON VINTAGE 21 (D.G.S) (A Mann) M Chapman 8-11-5 ______ W Worthington 118
(Ref and yellow diamonds, white showns and cap)

218 3411-11 WVINTAGE 21 (D.G.S) (Sir John 150) Mrs M Rentley 7-11-8 ___ P Mivor 133
(Black and white shipes, chemics on showns, light thus cap)

211 -221211 RAGSHP URERALLES 24 (D.G.S) (E-Group) P Richalts 5-11-8 _____ J Tizzard 139
(Red and white shipes, dark thus shows, white state and state on cap)

212 1-11121 GRUS D'ESTRUMAL 10 (G.S) (D Johnson) M Pips 5-11-8 ______ A P MicCoy 136
(Royal blue, emeral green showns, white cap, emeral green spots)

213 12-1512 TRESOR DE MAI 24 (D.G.F.D.G.S) (J Moran) M Pips 5-11-8 _____ 8 Duarwoody 129
(Plante, yellow chemon, dubodo on slewes)

BETTING: 4-1 His Song, 9-2 Gits O'Estrual, 11-2 Aghawadda Gold, Matuusija, 6-1 Yapper Reed, Wyr Ringot, Tresor De Mai, 10-1 Fragchip Liberalies, 18-1 Cockney Lad, 25-1 Advocal, 28-1 others, 1998: CHAMPLEVE 5-11-0 A P McCoy (13-2) M Ploe 18 ran.

3.15 SMURFIT CHAMPION HURDLE CHALLENGE TROPHY [SHOWCASE RACE] (Grade t: £138,000: 2m 110yd) (14 numers)

SEE ABOVE FOR CARD AND COLOURS

3.55 WILLIAM HILL NATIONAL HUNT CHASE

(HANDICAP) (£38,600: 3m 1f)(18 runners) 401 41P-42P UNIQUED MISSILE 87 (CDJ.F.G.S) (D Harrison) N Richards 11-11-16 6 Bradley (Light blue, myst blue triple diamond, diamonds on cleaves and cap)
402 11-1264 MACGEORGE 52 (F.G.S) (hir 5 Mrs J Watson) 8 Lee 9-11-8 ______ A Mageins 163
(Light blue and myst blue stripes, light blue steeves, royal blue arrises, quartered cap)
403 1-11PP2 TAMARSHOD 24 (Br.CDJ.F.G.S) (old chartson) M Pige 6-11-6 ______ P Carbony 161
(Royal blue, stressful green sleeves, white cap, embraid green spots)
404 -412113 RANDOM HARVEST 52 (D.F.G.S) Miss M Revoley 10-11-5 _ Mir A Demptoy (3) 140
miss than and white schools and sleeves, white cap.

(Dark blue and white siripes, red Seeves, white sixty 405 P-12P00 DOM SAMOURAL 17 (8.5) (8 Kilyatrick) M Pipe 8-11-2 (Fallow, Drown disc, striped alternat, hosped cap)

(Fallow, Drown disc, striped alternat, hosped cap)

408 122-111 STEP ON EYRE 31 (D.C.S.) (Duchess of Westkinstein) H Daty 6-10-11 .R Johnson 157 (Willow, samow black best and cap with gold lesses)

409 604-62P MAHTHER LAU 25 (B.C.D.S.S.) (J Shaw) Mrs J Phrom 16-16-10 ... R Durnwoody 160 (Wille, black start, with stewers, black cap)

410 51-1116 CALLING WILD 32 (BF.D.B.S.) (Heat & Ca List) P. Michiglis 9-10-10 ... J Theard 182

(Yellow, brown sleeves, yellow arrives) 416 4U511-2 BULDGY 25 (6.5) RI Copper) 8 Rown 0-10-1 416 MUST CALLEGAT AT REASY IN COMPANY & HOME CHAPT IN APPEN 182

(Narroon, yellow armides, quartered cap)

417 FT//10 ESLAND CHIEF 17 GET.D.C.S. (C. Diges) P Beammont 10-10-1 ______ 8 Slavey 151

(Crist, microon bono, microon shares, grey armices, quartered cap)

418 12813331 SHORE PARTY 36 (S) (Nrs. J. Monick) N Twickon-Davies 7-18-0 _J Schöstele (S) 142

Long bandicas: Share Party 5-1 SETTING: 7-2 Step On Eye, 7-1 Kadou Norsetals, Island Chief, 10-1 Bandon Harvest, Calling Wild, 32-1 Nahiben Lan, Santa Commito, King Lestler, 14-1 Editory, 16-1 Unquided Missile, Macquorga, Tamanedo, Earthnower, Japhib, Bedry's Boy, 20-1 Flor Thyne, 25-1 Shore Party, 50-1 Door Symposis. "1998: UNICARDED MESSILE 10-11-10 P Cartery (10-1) G Reservts 13 rae

4.30 FULKE WALWYN KIM MUIR CUP HANDICAP CHASE. (AMATEUR RIDERS) (£22,500: 3m 1f) (24 runners)

5.05 STAKIS CASINGS FINAL (HANDICAP HURDLE) (£28,950: 3m 2f) (24 runners)

28,950: 3m 2) (24 INTERES)

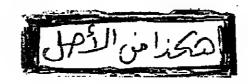
ASPS: FIGURA R. IT (20.6.5) (Statetics Threaded Factories) 8 Michalem 6-12-0. 8 Throates 139: 8712-7 TOTESDY 45 (8) (P. Street) M Pipe 0-11-6. R Hughes: 121: 1-2112 BUSUNS MAILE 19 (C.F.E.S.) (P. Parter) M Turbins-Davies 6-10-5. C. Liberthyn. 121: 1-2112 BUSUNS MAILE 19 (C.F.E.S.) (P. Parter) M Turbins-Davies 6-10-5. C. Liberthyn. 121: 1-2112 BUSUNS MAILE 19 (C.F.E.S.) (P. Parter) M Turbins-Davies 6-10-5. C. Liberthyn. 126: 1-2112 BUSUNS MINISTER 31 (C.S.) (P. Parter) M Turbins-Davies 6-10-5. C. Liberthyn. 126: 1-2112 BUSUNS MINISTER 31 (C.S.) (P. Parter) M Elect 3 8 Buscherl J Jahrenco 8-10-5. L. Viver 136: 1-212-15 THRISE FARTINGSS 38 (S) (E.S. S. R. Basternon) M Pipe 5-10-6. S. Johnson 136: 112-16 THRISE FARTINGSS 38 (S) (M-Fipe) M Pipe 12-10-4. R Busencon; 141: 111122 PAROL (C.A.) (P. Parter) M Figura 101-101-8. Darwood) M Fipe 12-10-4. R Busencon; 141: 111122 PAROL (C.A.) (P. Parter) M Figura 101-9. M Pipe 1-10-101-8. Darwood) M Fipe 1-10-101. M VIBRATION 118-101-9. PAROL (C.A.) (P. Parter) M Fipe 1-10-101. M VIBRATION 118-101-9. R Pipe 1-10-101. M VIBRATION 118-101-9. R Pipe 1-10-102 M Pipe 1-10-101. M VIBRATION 128-101-9. R Pipe 1-10-102 M Pipe 1-10-103 M Pipe 1-10-103 M Pipe 1-10-104 M Pipe 1-10-105 M Pipe SETTING: 4-1 Gabout Mass, 8-1 Hoops Measurer, Three Farthings: Stammon Gale, 16-1 Flying Guster, Ger sa, 12-1 Bossus Mate, Molody Maid. The Botterwick Rd, 14-1 others. 1988: URSBHKABLE BORER 9-10-12 A P McCoy (5-2 lav) M Pipe 24 ran

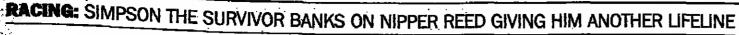
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Hoping for a Festival fairytale

n this of all racing weeks, reality is blurred by dreams and desires. For one man, though, the significance of the opening day at Chel-tenham can scarcely be exaggerated. If ever a horse was running for his trainer's life, or at least his livelihood, it is Nipper Reed this afternoon.

Notoriety has grown around this blameless horse, named after the detective who arrested the Kray twins and owned by a man in custody on drug charges. Bizarrely, Nipper Reed's performance in the Guinness Arkle Chase now offers a final lifeline for the plagued and persecuted career of Rod

The plight of Graham Piper, who not only owns Nipper Reed but most of Simpson's other horses and his yard in Wendover, is the latest misfortune to befall the most colourfully nomadic member of the training profession. Typically. Simpson remains determined it will not be the one that brings him down.

"I have had to move yards eight times," Simpson said. "Every time, the reason is different but this one was the biggest shock. The setbacks just hurt more as you get older. You are not so young and vibrant. It gets harder to shake down the old feathers and start

Simpson talked as he gazed out over Russell Farm, where the promise of contentment and security has exploded into shreds of uncertainty. His indomitably zany humour continues to shine through a dilemma that would leave others sour and embittered. "I'm just deciding whether I should offer to plough the potato fields down the road By Alan Lee, racing correspondent

Training

is the

only thing

people

believe I

can do ?

or take in some washing for the neighbours," he said. "I'll do anything,

The flippancy is gallantly false, for this time the eviction of Simpson is a grave matter in which he is entirely the injured innocent. Piper, twice remanded in custody by Crawley magistrates and facing another court appearance on March 31, has had his property put into receivership. That includes the farm and all his 30 horses

and it means Simpson is once more homeless and jobless, if not quite horse-

"I've still got a few horses for owners who have been good to me over the years, probably felt sorry for me really," he said. "Even if I only end up with a dozen or so, I want to carry on somewhere else because it seems to be the only thing people

believe I can do. "Every time I've lost a yard I have had to come back into training because I

can't get another job. In the past few Uttoxeter and Newbury - and then, weeks. I've been applying for every racing job that has come up but no-one wants me. I've also seen three potential yards - two where the rents are ridiculous and one that has no accommodation.

"I feel most sorry for the staff here. We'd got into some good routines and it's a young crew - I'm very much the granddaddy. Hopefully, I'll be able to take two or three of them wherever 1

go, but it will be a survival thing for a while." Simpson, though, is well used

He will not be taking Nipper Reed with him, for he is among the horses destined for dispersal at Doncaster Sales on March 29. But if jumping's theatre of dreams has one romantic result in its gift this week, look no further. He will be ridden today by Adrian Maguire, for whom the past-

four Cheltenham Festivals have been a wretched saga of absence, grief and pain and for whom the racing public reserve a special affection. Add the popularity of the enduring Simpson and there is potential for lumps in the most stoical of throats.

Simpson insists there is nothing fanciful in the idea and, for all the Irish confidence in the favourite. His Song, lines of form support his confidence. Nipper Reed won his first two races over fences - at

raised in class against seasoned twomilers in the Mitsubishi Shogun Game Spirit Chase at Newbury last month, he was beaten by less than the ground he lost when being left at the start — an episode, incidentally, appropriate to the lucklessness of his 53-year-old

"The horse is in awesome form now," Simpson said. "I had finished with him after work last Tuesday,

because he's never wanted to be hassled. He loves to be fresh and we are going there with all the optimism you must have for a runner at Cheltenham. And I don't worry about the ground, either. He'll be fine on it."

Simpson breaks off continually from the more earnest areas of conversation to tell ridiculous jokes, to inform me he hopes to sing a song about Nipper Reed on the Cheltenham public address and to regale me with stories of his exploits as a football referee. "I got the yellow card out to a bloke yesterday and he told me he had backed my horse. You won't book me

now, will you, he said. I did, though." There have been many dates with destiny in Simpson's turbulent life but none quite like today. Quite simply, his first Festival winner would attract the acclaim and publicity to save his

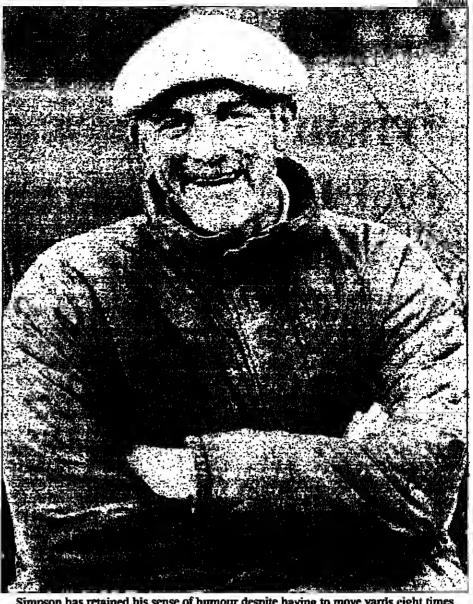
Defeat is as unthinkable as the consequences. "I have no intention of lying down and giving up, though," he said defiantly. "I can't. Even at my age, I'm too byperactive."



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The Afternoon Line (C4, 1.00pm); The Chelienham Festival (C4, 1.30pm); The Chelienham Festival (Highlights) (C4, 11.40pm)

THE TIMES CHELTENHAM HOTLINES: 09064 700547 — Racecall commentary 09064 700548 -- Racecall n *cells cost 60p per minute



Simpson has retained his sense of humour despite having to move yards eight times

BETING POLVY THE TIMES GUIDE TO THE GOING TODAY SEDGEFIELD Inderfoot conditions nps, 6 race card 1st race 2.25 Winning favourites 30.0% TV: none Long distance travellers: Farrah's Darling (3.35), Carnden Fellow (5.20), 258 miles CHELTENHAM ps. 6 race card 1st race: 2.00 Winning 40.3% Sente Concerto (3.55), Celtic Glant (4.30), 272 miles Jones, 7 race card 1st race: Winning favourities 33.5% EARLY BIRD . TV: none Macgeorge 🧀 Long distance traveller: Sir Walter (2.50), 223 miles

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These prices may have changed since this newspaper was printed for the very labest prices, sage Lathestee Teletest 605/6 (Ch4).

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9/2 French Holly

10/1 Theatreworld

12/1 Lady Cricket

20/1 Blowing Wind

33/1 Grey Shot

40/1 City Hall

Sort Midnight Legend

55/1 Mister Morose

_ - 5

January 1977

Carlo Barr

ROB WRIGHT 2.25 Corbieu. 3.00 Heavy Hustler. 3.35 Cathedral Belle, 4,15 River Unshion, 4.50 Makin' Doo, 5.20 Helmsley Flier. . . Carl Evans: 4.50 Makin' Doo GOING: GOOD TO SOFT (SOFT IN PLACES)

2.25 MONKEY PUZZLE SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (JOHN WADE QUALIFIER) (£1,564; 3m 3f 110yd) (13 numers)

7-2 Toposhemorthackog, 9-2 D'Arbby Sheet, 5-1 Kakashda, Dockmaster, 7-1 Mr Christie, Angus Airvase, 12-1 German Legend, 14-1 others.

3.00 TOTE COURSE TO COURSE NOVICES CHASE

2 FRAY HUSTLER 28 (CD.F.S.) J Howard Johnson 8-11-9
C McCormack (5) 1888
2 PGP3 CLARARMING MOSS 15 (6) D M Founter 8-11-2 _____ Supple 54
3 7395 EMPEROR'S MAGIC 26 in Macon 0-11-2 _____ R Guest 5
5 995 INTER STILLIFE 20 (6) Into J Brown 6-11-2 J Mag P Rubons 5
5 995 INDR ADLLAN 5 (D.F.S.) J Howard Stiller _____ A S South 6
5 -00 MR BRUND 11 M Banes 0-11-2 _____ A S South 6
7 // NY PROME STILE 798 (-6) J Howard Johnson 10-11-2 D Pater 6
6 9570 EDIDAAL CROSSET 17 E Calon 14-1-2 _____ Mr D Fagan 56 6-6 Heavy Huster, 3-1 Charming Moss, 4-1 Fryap Satellite, 7-1 Emperor's Negls, Lord Rollet, 20-1 Mr Bruno, 33-1 Prune Style, 100-1 Cubati Grassett.

3.35 ALPHAMERIC BED ONION MARES ONLY NOVICES HURDLE (£2,373: 2m 5f 110yd) (14)

4.15 ALPHAMERIC BET CAPTURE SYSTEMS HANDICAP CHASE (£4,250: 2m 5f) (8)

1 P44P EASIY JOKER 75 (F.E.S) 5 Kettlevoll 11-11-12 & Harding 79
2 UG94 RDYKL MOUNTEROWIE 38 (D.E.S) Miss M Ronked 11-11-11
3 -3P4 BACK BAR 24 (B.S) D McCaiu 11-11-11 — A C Coyle (S) 82
4 2122 RWER LINSHION 45 (CD.F.G.S) J. Henard Johnson 9-11-10 — D Parker 228
5 3134 MOSAM 18 (CD.F.G.S) M Seenes 9-11-3 — R Guest 118
D P-PS MR RUBEE 20 (F.G.S) M Seenes 9-11-3 — M Condition (S) 67
7 PD02 ANOTHER RED 20 (CD.F.S) M Ren 17-10-5 M H Manginon (S) 67
7 PD02 ANOTHER RED 20 (CD.F.S) W Ran 17-10-0 — W Conditing (S) 38
8 PD69 COPPERBURST 14 (B.S) W Nemp 6-10-0 — L Cooper (7) 114 2-1 River Upshion, 7-2 Royal Mitzenforowne, 9-2 Nosam, 7-1 Another Red, 0-1 Eastly Joher, 12-1 Back Bar, Mr Funige, 10-1 Copperhurst.

4.50 TOTE TRIO HUNTERS CHASE (£1,277; 3m 3f) (14)

(\$1,277: 3m 3f) (14)

1 2-UP FAST STUDY ZSP (F.G.S) S J Bobinson 14-12-10

2 5r0- MAJEC RAIN 474 (CD.F.G.S) Allan Dictorm 14-12-17

3 43/5 INTEGRITY BOY 23P (F.G.S) Mas A Armillage 12-12-7

Mas Tear (7) 33

42-1 HILTUNISTOMIN LASS 11 (C.G.S) T Walter 12-12-7

Mar C Wildows (7) 38

5 23-4 RISCAL POLICY 40 (F.G.S) A Institut 11-12-0

Mr R Massification (7) 14

10 -311 MAKEN DOD 23P (F.G.S) R 6 Mas 9-12-0

Mas V Jackson (3) 1-13-18

12 4-PP MARGNER MOSS 40 (B.S.) S Colleged 912-2 Mr S Colleged (7) 7

13 -531 POLYMIN 23P (B.S.) Mas L Wart 10-12-0

Mr N Masson (3) 7

14 05-5 YO'NSIM 23P (B.S.) NS L Wart 10-12-0

Mr N Masson (3) 5-5

14 05-5 YO'NSIM 23P (B.S.) NS L Wart 10-12-0

Mr N Masson (3) 5-5

14 05-5 YO'NSIM 23P (B.S.) NS L Wart 10-12-0

Mr N Masson (3) 5-5

14 05-5 YO'NSIM 23P (B.S.) NS L Wart 10-12-0

Mr N Masson (3) 5-5

14 Undaline, 4-1 Masson Dod, 9-2 Trado Despute, 5-1 Hillonstown Lass, 7-1

5.20 TOTE PLACEPOT MOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,425: 2m 1f) (13)

3-1 Lintatheo, 4-1 Maten' Doo. 9-2 Trade Dispute, 5-1 Hiltonstown Lass, 7-1 Dromoto Dreim, 0-1 Polyoth, 10-1 Fiscal Policy, 16-1 others

HURBILE (12.42): 271 17 (13)

1 0015 MILTAGARRIF 8 (6F,CDF,CI) J Dodts 6-12-0 S Mehruse (7)
274 FARCEUR DUI MESMIL 26 R Morgen 6-11-8 ... A 8 Strokt
3 2344 MORSE 28 (6F,CB 8 Bitson 8-11-7 ... L Cooper (7)
4 CF64 MELMSLEY RUEN 11 T Extensive 0-11-4 ... E Collegions 95
5 2412 ACCAYSTAN 17 (F) M Harmond 4-11-4 ... N Horrosis (5)
6 77
6 PPS JARAMS 28 D Smith 8-11-3 ... B Brarding 8
7 1611 ORDE LAD 173 (CDF,C) Mass K Milligan 6-11-1 B Grattan (5)
8 5403 THE LAMBTON WORM 14-N Brooth 5-10-13 G F Ryan (5)
8 5403 THE LAMBTON WORM 14-N Brooth 5-10-13 G F Ryan (5)
8 6504 COME AND RIM 75 M W Excitative 5-10-13 G McCommed (5)
18 1200 PMACURAS LORD 80 J Westermyld 5-10-12 ... D Parter
41 PYDD CAMBER HELLOW 37 (7) PECKET 0-10-7 ... M Scates (7)
12 504 KONKER 22 G M Moore 4-10-3 ... R Ganst 76
13 6040 OKE STUP 4 M Barnes 0-10-0 ... R Scates (7)
14 Control of A 10 of A 10 Mercent (7-1 Parcen Da Mescal B A 1 Mencenty

0800 980 0103 -1770) we're they create available orbit 20th March 1999 (subject to status best explicable to exchang Ladbrokes credit account committees. Laborating by Microsom, Ladbrokes (sections bester the subject to status TRIDERS: P Ecoles, 4 warmers from 10 namers, 40.0%; J Dades, 3 trom 12, 25.0%. Mrs M Revoley, 52 from 217, 24.0%; J Jelferson, 9 from 38, 23.7%; 5 Bell, 4 from 17, 23.5%; D Smith, 14 from 58, 20.0%. K Morgan, 5 from 27, 18.5%. B Mexico, 6 trom 34, 17.6%; G M Morre, 16 from 33, 17.2%; I Expirity, 8 from 50, 16.0%. DCDE'S 5 Mehrosa. 3 whiters from 14 rides. 27.4%, to Hamshy, 3 from 15, 20.0%; B Greet, 12 from 52, 19.4%; M H Navaghton, 4 from 21, 19.0%; G Lee. 16 from 65, 18.6%, C McCompach, 12 from 70, 17.1%; J Sarpie. 12 from 71, 16.9%, E Calleghan, 11 from 70, 16.7%; A Sandh. 11 from 92.

Ladbrokes For a bet, Ladbrokes are favourite. BLINKERED PRIST TIME: Cheltenham: 2.00 Treasure Chest. 2.35 Makounji. 5.05 Aboo Hom. Sedgefield: 2.25 Gold Drop. 3.35 Guile Point, Southwell: 4.05 Stone Ridge.

1,45 King Priam, 2,15 Carrie Pooter, 2,50 Albernine. 3.25 Without Friends, 4,05 Yes Keemo Sabee. 4.40 State Approval. 5.15 Scurrilous.

GOING: STANDARD DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE

1.45 COR HANDICAP (Div I: £3,159: 1m) (10 runners)

10 2466 TOM 32 (V,CD) C Fairburst 4-7-10 ______I Grantham (7) 3 4-1 High Noon, 9-2 Jiboress, 11-2 Ron's Pet, 6-1 Rakis, Magacal Shot, 7-1 King Pitano, 10-1 Sanatoga Red, 12-1 others

2.15 DARTMOOR CLASSIFIED STAKES (£2,316: 7f) (8)

Taunton Taunton 5 -624 TITTA RUFFO 24 (B.F.G) D Star 5-9-5 ... 6-4 Nany's Allan, 2-1 Cante Pooter, 9-2 Tata Hullo, 8-1 Abbad, 16-1 My Legal Eagle, 25-1 Molecus, Smart, 50-1 Septeme Majordon.

2.50 SUFFOLK PUNCH CLASSIFIED CLAIMING STAKES (£2,141: 1m 6f) (17)

 O-64 STORM COMMAND 38 D Arbefred 5-9-2 SWithworth 1
 13-0 SKYPRS A IOTE B (6) Ron Thungson 4-8-13 J Love 13
 3-532 ALBEMME 27 (5) A Judges 10-8-12 P Doe (3) 4
 460- CARROLLS MARIC 242 (C.D.F.6) Par Minchell 11-8-12
 M Femon 15
 O-00 SMEEP STEALER 14 R Practice 11-8-12 C Loweller 8
 D ASIS TWO DN THE BRIDGE D J Gorpt 5-8-12 Without 14 4 000- CHYPULLS MARCH 24 (C.D.F.S) | 7 at returns 11-8-12 | M. Fenton 15 |
5 00/0 SNEEP STEALER 14 R Practical 11-8-12 | C. Lowiner 8 |
7 000- URGENT REFLY 154 (F.G.S.) C Duyer 6-8-12 | J. Minester 14 |
7 000- URGENT REFLY 154 (F.G.S.) C Duyer 6-8-12 | Gotobed (7) 3 |
8 0-29 BULY BOX 25 (D.) Rekiston 7-8-10 | K. Felton 12 |
9 -244 MONADO GOLD 27 (C.D.F.S.) D Cuspree 7-8-18 | J. Duhn 5 |
10 0-00 KEEN COMPANION 6 T Neeptins 8-9 | C. B. Dufford 17 |
11 00-0 MADAN LILEY 8 (7) Mas N Macarity 5-8-9 | P. McCabe 18 |
12 -005 HILIZAN 25 (C.D.F.B.S) R BOSINSAN 11-8-8 Dean MicKorown 9 |
12 -005 HILIZAN 25 (C.D.F.B.S) R BOSINSAN 11-8-8 Dean MicKorown 9 |
13 -009 LAVE STAR 22 J Free 6-8-5 | J. Stack 8 |
14 4320 SR WALTER 28 (F) A T Mesphy 6-8-6 | J. Stack 8 |
15 -009 LAVE ANSA 22 J Free 6-8-5 | J. Chromock 7 |
18 2108 KATIE'S CRACKER 8 (C.D.S) M Oram 4-8-3 | F Norton 11 |
17 3000 TIME OUT 8 (C) M Polylace 4-7-13 | P Fessor 14 |
18 2108 Ref 6-1 HILLER 7-1 Tyn 00 The Brodes Bille Box 0-1 Svers A

3.25 COB HANDICAP (Div It £3,141: 1m) (9)

9 1000 LAA JADEED 32 (C) M Polglass 4-7-10

4.05 'NEIL AND DIANE 25TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY' HANDICAP (£4,046: 1m 4f) (7)

1 5121 GNEEN BOPPER 15 (C.G) D Woodward 6-9-12 ___ C Lowdor'd 2 061- STONE RIDGE 47.1 (V.F.G.S) J Peace 7-9-12 ___ A POB (3) 1 3 2521 SWAFT D (CD.F.G) M POGRAS 9-9-11 (Geod ___ K. Fallon 7 400- MR PORT WHORKS 124 (BF-CD.B.S) J Eyro 5-9-5 _R Lappin D 5 3443 MCJIKARI 13 (CD) P Ewro 6-9-4 __ J F Egan 5 5-4 __ STONE (7) 2 5 3453 MCJIKARI 13 (CD) P Ewro 6-9-4 __ J Ewro 7 3 -531 COUNT DE MONEY 18 (CD) 8 Brassing 4-8-9 ____ J Quien 3 8-4 Green Bonoer, 7-2 Yes Keerno Sebeu, 4-1 Count De Money, 7-1 Swift, 10-1 Nockarl, 12-1 Some Ridge, 20-1 Mi Fottywinks.

4.40 ARAB SELLING STAKES (£1,814: 1m 3f) (6)

1 1125 MOONRAKING 18 (B,CD) Miss S William 6-10-0 -6 State Approval, 7-4 Moorstaking, 18-1 Flottey Spianey, 33-1 Danka. Vinnower, 58-1 Goldstar.

5.15 THOROUGHBRED HANDICAP (£2,684: 50) (16)

7 2540 POLAR MIST 20 (V) Mrs. N Macanicy 4-8-13
8 0401 CAMED 10 (V,D) M Cormon 4-8-9 Dean McKnown 5
9 4130 TRICEN'S SURPRISE 8 (B,D,F.) Belling 5-8-8 Lichmonts 4
18 030-0 RRL STAR 130 (V,D,S.) Fleare 3-8-7 C Cagan (7) 14
14 0000 SELKINK ROSE 10 (V,D,G.) Fleare 3-8-7 C Cagan (7) 14
15 010 HB, TONE SDECITIME 71 (C,D.) FLAND 5-8-6 L Charmock 7
13 3563 SCURRILOUS 12 J L Harts 4-8-0 R Medien (3) 10
14 -661 BUNCLTF ERMISE 14 (D,F.G.) D Chapman 7-7-13 J Chalma 8
15 2-00 GOMER PLACES 32 (B,D,S.) K hory 4-7-12 C Castin (7) 1
15 0432 XALAR 15 (B,CD,F.G.) D Chapman 19-7-10 P Fessey 2

4-1 Nithy Hormon, 6-1 Bold Frontain, 8-1 As-Youking-mothing, Bowelife Grappe, 16-1 Tabler's Surpaise, Scientifies, 12-1 Blee Kite, Camen, Hilliags Executive, 181ar, 14-1 offers. COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAMERS. Sr M Prescott. 25 winners from 85 numers. 30.6%; Miss S Wilton, 12 from 42, 28.6%; T Barron, 25 from 149, 17.4%; D Carroll. 4 from 23, 17.4%; S Woodward, 5 from 34, 14.7%, M (Channod, 7 from 51, 13.7%, JOCKPYS. C Carver. 6 winners from 18 rudes. 44.4%; R RizPairlot, 8 from 30, 26 frs. K Pallon, 25 from 95, 29.6%; J Wester, 37 from 231, 16.6%; P McCabo. 21 from 144, 14.6%; D Duffeld, 32 from 230, 13.5%.

Cardinal Hill to answer prayers

ISTABRAQ, an Irish banker at the past two Festivals, faces little more than a lap of honour to retain the Smurfit Champion Hurdle and his short odds disqualify him from serving the same role this time. Today, that dubious honour falls to Cardinal Hill in the Citroen Supreme Novices' Hurdle.

Like Joe Mac, he is owned by J. P. McManus, but it is Cardinal Hill who has been subject of much more positive reports in recent days. He did an exceptional gallop last week and Noel Meade is optimistic that he can overcome his inexperience to give him a popular first Festival success.



Colonel Yeager is a solid each-

way alternative. A McManus gamble must be possible on Shannon Gale. who reappeared at Christmas after two years on the sidelines, to win the Leopardstown

qualifier for the Stakis Casinos Final. Being 8lb out of the handicap may have a bigger effect on his price than his chance, as he could have improved for Christy Roche.

Time For A Run, a Festival veteran, ran a promising trial for the Fulke Walwyn Kim Muir Challenge Cup at Leopardstown nine days ago and makes each-way appeal, while His Song has obvious prospects in the Guinness Arkle Trophy Chase.

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: BOSUNS MATE (5.05 Cheitenham)

RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S THREE MEETINGS

Going: good, good to soft in places.
2.10 (2m 1104 ch) 1, South West Express (3 Mogford, 11-4). 2, Conneught Cracker (8-11 lan) 3, Jason's Boy (4-1). 5 ran. NR. Northern Saddier. 2, 11's. 0 Winter Tote. E3 20; £1.70, £1.20. DF £2.30 CSF £5.10
2.40 (2m 31 110yd hdie) 1, Nr. Stranggle (J. A. McCarthy, 7-2), 2, Northern Duras (9-4 last).
3, Merchigher (18-1). 8 ran. 13, 22; Smon Earls, Tote. £9, £20, £160 DF £5.50
CSF £11.20
3.10 (2m 30; 1. Larendo JJ Ťezard, 5-4), 2. Echo's of Dawn (12-11, 4 ran, Des. P. Nichols, Tote. £2.10. DF £6.20, CSF, £10.55.
3.40 (2m 31 110yd ch) 1, Battawing (D Salar, 10-1); 2, Twimmers Grove (20-1), 3, Cage Aux Folies (4-1). Rad (4th) 6-4 law 10 ran. 15, 13; B Milman Tote. £13.60 £2.80, £2.90, £1.70 DF £144.70. CSF £159 75.
4.19 (2m 11 hdie) 1, Time Vision (A P. McCoy, 4-9 lan), 2, Alegamo (25-1); 3, Muhassi (10-1), 8 ran. 7, 61 M Pipe, Tote. £1.30, £1.10, £240, £1.10. DF £5.70 CSF, £15 63
4.40 (3m ch); 1, Muntatif (Mr C R Wesser, 10-1); 4 ref Ren. £23, 2, Milmand (12-1). 10-1); 2-40; 110; 57 20 40; 10-10; 24, 440; (3m ch) 1, 8untataff (Mr C R Wesner, 10-1); 2, Just Ban (7-2); 3, Hillhead (12-1). Cartain Angle (Sth) 11-8 lav. 8 ran. 4, 31 Semon T Lews. Tote: 29 40; 22 50, £1 10, £4 80 DF: £20 60 CSF: £41 06 24 80 DF : 20 80 CSF : 241 05 5.10 (2m 11 hdie) 1, Leffish (A P McCoy, 4-1); 2, Jaib (9-4 kev); 3, Mr Lenn (9-1); 9 ran 4, 101 M Pipe. Totar 23 80, 23 10; 1,1.0, 21,80 DF : 28.30 Tota Tirlecta: £159 70 CSF, £12.33, Tnoast : 267.31

Jackpot: £7,100.0 — Part won (carry over of £7,465.63 to Chollardium today) Placepot: £86.90. Quadpot: £24.70

Plumpton

Going: soil 2.00 (2m 4) hole) 1, Johnston's Art (B Powel, evens tay); 2, Guillible Guy (6-1); 3, Pirste Minstral (50-1), 7 ran. NR: Peasadown Tolena, 14, 13. R Buckler, Toler: £1.90; £1.20, £2.70. DF: £4.80. CSF: £5.20.

Deep Retran (16-1) 4 ran 271, des Miss Venera Williams Tote £1 40 DF £1 30 CSF: £1.67 Cor. 11.07 2.00 (2m 1/hdc) 1, Whirtervible (S Kell, 2-15 lay) 2, in Good Order (25-1) 3, Casne Hil (33-1) 5 ran 13, 22/ Msc Veneria Wil-lems Tote £1 10 £1 10, £2 90 DF £2 20, CSF £4 49 USP 1249
3.30 (2m 11 hdiet 1, Suranom J. F. Titley, 7-4 fav. Richard Evans, a nap) 2, Tissue of Less (2-1), 3, Rummate (9-2) 7 ran 2-4, 23 Mrs O Hane, Tote 62 70, 51 30, 51 50 DF 62 50 CSF 55 37

C3.50 CSF S5.37 4.00 (2m Si chi 1, Full of Bounce (P Ho-ley, 12-1) 2, No Matter (11-41 3, Scobe Gol (5-2) Regal Aura (4th) 5-4 tav 4 ran, NR Scawo, 12, 12 R Hodges Tota E13.30 DF S11.40 CSF, E37.01 \$11.40 CSF, E57.01
4.30 (3m 11 110yd ch) 1. Westerlands Oueen (Mr A Charles Jones, evens lav), 2. My Best Man (5-4), 3. Proceso (14-1) 5 ran (3), dist h Marmers, Tote \$2.00, £2.10, £1.10 DF, £1.50 CSF £2.47
5.00 (2m of hole) 1. Blaze of Oak (Mess V Roberts, 4-5 lav), 2. August Twelfin (100.30), 3. Fighung Times (12-1) 5 ran £2, 22 P Eccles, Tote £1.90 £1.60, £1.30 DF-£2.10 CSF, £3.66
Placeport £34.80. Quadrot £33.50.

Stratford

Goling: heavy
1.50 (2m Df 110yd hdiet 1. Yer 'umble (R Farrant, 50-1), 2. Leinylak (9-1), 3. Ballyna-bragget (7-1) Caldomus (4th) 4.5 fav 9 man. 14. 4f. J. Cresswell Tote 558 40. 65 60, 52 30, 61 10 DF: £275 40 CSF 5371 98.
2.20 (2m 4f ch) 1, Jocks Crees (N Williamson, 1-12 fav), 2. Anns Display (12-11; 3. Cherry Orchol (25-1) 3 ran 14. 201 Mess Venetis Williams Tote £1 10 DF: £1 30 CSF £1 48.
2.50 (2m 3) hdiel 1. Stassford Hill (R John-2.50 (2m 3i holle) 1, Stassford Hill (R Johnson, 4-1); 2, Rusk (7-4 lav); 3, Balmoral Pm3.20 i/m chi 1 Roundwood (G Carer 5-5 iav) 2 Monadastran i944 4 Anuar Transe (16-1) 4 ian 8 cast O Hughes Tota 52 io DF \$2.30 CSF 53 91

3.50 (2m 110)d hater 1. Westey's Lad (7 J Burchet, 7-4, 2, The Breamaster (7.2) 2 Menghano (11-10 lay) 3 ran 3, 37 3 Burchet, Tote (21-10 DF £120 CSF £5.63 4.20 (3m ct) 1 Tonbols (4.5 BPcace, 1-2 fat); 2, Tomospagh (8-1) 3, Retwer (50-1) 14 ran, NF AF Pribat (0) ds; Ms Caroline Barley Tote £170, £1 10, £2 70 £1 10 DF £4 60 CSF; £4 91

4.50 (2m 110 of fig) 1 Unityem (5 % sish 16-11 tax), 2 Torn Coberer (11-2) 3 Reys Yanker (7-11 Bran 6, 3% Mass Verseba Wo kams, Tote, £1 80, £1.30 £1.40 £2.09 DF £4 10 CSF: £5.49

Placepot £117.20. Quadpot £17.40.





FOOTBALL: FERGUSON'S COMMENTS RAISE THE TEMPERATURE BEFORE SECOND LEG OF EUROPEAN CUP QUARTER-FINAL

are. They move and some-times fail to settle with the fluc-

tuadon of butterflies and, in

the global world where goals

are the lingua franca, two of them are on the outside look-

have to face the most potent

and in-form striker that

Internazionale possess, for Al-

varo Recoba is surplus to re-

quirements. He rates behind a half-fit Ronaldo, an often tenuously fit Roberto Baggio, the fledgeling Nicola Ventola and the experienced Ivan

Recoba, the young, swarthy. delightful Uruguayan, has been loaned to Venezia, for

whom he scored a devastating

hat-trick against the aspiring Serie A champions, Fiorenti-

na, on Sunday.

The left foot of Recoba is, at its best, every bit the magi-

Zamorano.

Stadium of fright will test mettle of United

FROM OLIVER HOLT, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

THERE is a sense of peacefulness and elegance about the loth-century palace that houses the offices of Internazionale in the city centre here that suggests not much disturbs the equilibrium of those who work

Classical frescoes adom the walls and the high ceilings. The sound of visitors climbing the broad stone staircases to the trophy room echo around the Palazzo Caproni and mix with laughter and the chatter of friendly greeongs. Yesterday, though, an air of

patrician surprise that verged on indignation was floating around the building, too, as news of Alex Ferguson's renewed attack on Inter and their propensity for scheming. conniving, plotting and generally being Italian began to

Ferguson's thinly disguised xenophobia is nothing new be-fore games such as this. His comments about the underhand tactics he thinks Inter are likely to employ before the European Cup quarter-final. second leg tomorrow night represent a tried and tested way of putting pressure on the referee. In this case, the official is a Frenchman, Gilles Veisier, who sent off Steve McMana-man and Paul Ince in Liverpool's Uefa Cup tie against Valencia earlier this season. He also refereed Manchester United's defeat at the hands of Juventus in the Stadio delle Alpi last season, so the omens for a night when the San Siro will be full to bursting, its fans at their most passionate, are not encouraging.

Despite the disquiet of Inter and their players, the issue of whether the desperation of the Italians to overturn United's 2-0 lead will manifest itself in excessive gamesmanship is, to-gether with the projected re-

turn of Ronaldo, beginning to dominate the run-up to the

ground, their players affected surprise, too, at Ferguson's comments. Aron Winter, the Holland international, poured scorn on the United manager's observations. "He's just looking for an alibi," Winter said. "We play our own game. We are not interested in those things he is talking about. We have got a very good team and now that Ronaldo is fir and playing that is going to be an-

other weapon for us. This is the one game that can rescue our season. The atmosphere is going to be crazy because we will be playing in front of 85,000 people and 75,000 of them will be for Inter. You can imagine what it will be like. It is one of our strengths that we are used to playing in front of that many. Old Trafford had a good atmosphere, but there are going to be 30,000 more at the San

The stadium, where the fans set up their own megaphones on the Curva Nord and the Curva Sud to magnify their screams and exhortations, will be like an Inferno tomorrow night. There will be smoke bombs, flares and firecrackers hurled onto the pitch and it is essential for United not to allow themselves to become intimidated by the atmosphere.

In the past, perhaps, lack of discipline might have let them down but now that many of their young players have ma-tured, they are less vulnerable. David Elleray, who refereed United's game against Newcastle United on Saturday, is confident that they will not allow themselves to become deflected from their task.

"United will need to be aware that there will be a cer-



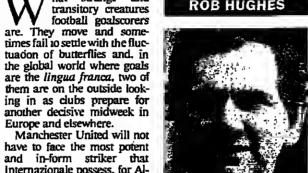
Recoba proves deadly from a free kick for Venezia against Fiorentina. Internazionale could do with his striking prowess against Manchester United

tain amount going on off the ball." Elleray said. "There will be quite a lot of blocking of runs, body-checking and shirt-tugging, which will not neces-sarily be seen by the referee because it will almost certainly be out of his line of vision.

be out of his line of vision. "It will be like a game of physical chess and the Italians will try to get United's players booked, either to dull their game or as a first step to getong them sent off.

You just need one or two Italians to start rolling around in agony, to see if the referee takes any action, and that could wind United up. English players tend to get stroppy about that kind of exaggeration. But people like Keane. Butt and Scholes are much more mature now. Beckham. because of that Argentina game, now knows the prob-lems that retaliation brings. In terms of composure, United are probably better equipped than they were last season."

That assessment should cheer Ferguson, to say nothing of the fact that Ronaldo, suffering from a migraine, could not train yesterday. The schemers have got some catching up to



Overseas View

cian's tool that is the right foot of Baggio. He demonstrated it with a free kick from 22 yards. es, his foot seemed deceptively to caress the ball, but it flew the far, high corner of the net.

The same foot was to deceive Fiorentina's goalkeeper again in the second half and then the diminutive Recoba concluded his special day late in the game by anticipating a defender's error, hustling him with a matador's swerve, then eluding the goalkeeper and tapping the ball over the line with the right foot that he normally requires only to stabilise

ft was, in all, another unpredictable weekend in Italy. Juventus, who face a tricky second leg in Piraeus against Olympiakos tomorrow, achieved a late winning goal against Udinese to confirm their tentative recovery under Carlo Ancelotti, who has replaced Mar-

And age is no barrier, ei-

ROB HUGHES



Inter missing loan dividend

He took no more than two pacwith astonishing ferocity into

cello Lippi as trainer.

FOOTBALL IN BRIEF

THE Football Association is

expected to stage the Graeme Le Saux-Robbie Fowler

misconduct hearing after

championship match with

Wembley on March 27.

That means the two

Friday.

for international duty, as

England's European

Rideout moving to China

ther, because Pietro Vierchow-od, once a stalwart of the Jo-Dynamo Kiev are a better

ter United fulfil expectations,

who would be the fourth semi-

finalist in the European Cup?

John Toshack, finding his feet

in charge of Real Madrid and

grateful for their 3-1 victory

away to Racing Santander on Saturday, believes that

team away from home.
It is a belief tinged, perhaps, with wishful thinking. For afventus defence, stepped up to head a goal in Vicenza's 3-0 victer Kiev had mastered Real at tory over Perugia ... and the the Santiago Bernabeu in the first leg, the Kiev team, having wintered much more thorformer Italy international is in his fortieth year. In the same match, Lamberto Zauli, a winger, rose three feet into the oughly than a year ago, looked capable not only of eliminatair to score with a volley, one of those goals that make us reing the champions of the Contialise that beauty lurks in the most unexpected areas of this nent but of going all the way.

Andrei Shevchenko should

be buoyed by his fine and customary goal in the 1-1 draw in Madrid, yet if there are 100,000 people in the stadium in Kiev, none will take tomorrow for granted. They were in this position 12 months ago but, having held Juventus also 1-1 in Turin, they fell apart to the skills of Filippo Inzaghi, who scored three of Juventus's to SV Hamburg, are strolling in the Bundesliga and are fa-vourites to defeat Kaiserslautern in the quarter-finals.

If Munich and Juventus and, though nothing should be taken for granted. Manches-

startling four away goals. That is the value, the surprise, the sting of the goalscorer. How many recall Paul Rideout, then a schoolboy apprentice with Swindon Town, scor-

ing a memorable hat-trick at Wembley when England Un-der-15 defeated Scotland 5-0? Rideout hit the net with one extraordinary burst from the halfway line, lashing his shot from 35 yards. But the boy has meandered through manhood. He played for Aston Villa, for Bari in Serie A, and heplayed on other continents. leased by Kansas City Wizards in American Major League Soccer, where he shared the attack with the fleeting Scotland forward, Mo Johnston, Rideout has now joined Chongquing, in China.

A strange world, indeed, for those who can go anywhere and put the ball into that confined space between the posts.

Barnsley 1 lacking confidence for Cup encounter

Moya cri

By GEORGE CAULKIN

NO DISRESPECT to Barnsley. Those four words, repeated like a mantra — a patronising, grudging acknowledgement - have come to symbolise and shape a football club.

They imply a certain overachievement, a sense of living above their station. They have been mouthed quite a lot over the past three seasons and usually followed by a significant "but..." It has been no different in the build-up to the rescheduled FA Cup quarter-final tie with Tottenham Hot-

spur tonight.
No disrespect to Barnsley. but Tottenham are clear fa-

They have grown immune to it at Oakwell. Two years ago Mark McGhee, then manager of Wolverhampton Wanderers, questioned their stamina and ambition. At the time it had seemed an unnecessary broadside, fuelled perhaps by Barnsley's ascension to the EA Carling Premiership ahead of richer, brasher Wolves, but

the sentiment stuck.
It lasted throughout the ten-month jaunt that followed, as Barnsley sustained some heavy bludgeoning but beat Liverpool and Aston Villa -all of it to the eternal backdrop of "It's just like watching Bradia". This season, without a league win in 1999 and down to seventeenth in the Nation-wide League first division, it

ing Barnsley.
A combination of relegation and Danny Wilson's defection to Sheffield Wednesday have served to reverse the momentum gradually generated over the previous four years.

has been far more like watch-

· John Hendrie, the new manager, was a popular and amicable appointment, but confidence is low and the mood is decidedly tetchy. In the last round of the Cup, a 4-1 victory



over Bristol Rovers was soured when Hendrie became embroiled in a heated confrontation with Clint Marcelle, the Trinidad and Tobago forward. It was not an argument over Barnsley's tactical pattern, but disagreement triggered by Marcelle's clothing, and recolored to the second testing.

and resolved by the chairman.
Ashley Ward, who had scored IS goals, was sold to Blackburn Rovers faie last year; and though Craig Hignett Hendrie's former Middlesbrough team-mate. has been playing well since signing from Aberdeen for £800,000, another new arrival. Bruce Dyer, has struggled. "I have faith in my ability and I always go into a game thinking I'm going to score,"
Thir, who left Crystal Palace in a £750,000 transfer, said. "I know I will come good."

Barnsley have failed to score in eight of their past fen league games. Their game plant against Tottenham will no deviate far from their normal blueprint. They will pass the football, hope to take the London fancy Dans unawares and pray that their opponents looming visit to Wembley in the Worthington Cup will go some way to preventing another. "I would have thought it would be in the back of their minds," Dyer said.

Hendrie can point to defeats of Bolton Wanderers, Manchester United and indeed. Spurs, as they reached a similar stage of the competition last season. He will say that, whatever their Cup form, George Graham's team have: not won an away league game since October. He will point, for the first time in recent weeks, to the strength of hissquad. Neither side is troubled by injury. Graham said yester-

Ti we get through, we've a thard game against Newcas tie." No disrespect to Barnsley.
BARNSLEY (possible, 44-2) T.B. Book - N. Eaden, A. Moese, C. Mongan, A. De Zasuw - E. Thirtar, S. McClare, S. Jones, C. Blackmore - C. Honett, B. Dyer TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (possible, 44-2) Walker -- S. Carr, R. Vega, S. Carrobett, J. Edinburgh -- O. Anderton, S. Freund, T. Shewood, D. Grobe -- L. Facilitani, G. S. Freund, T. Shewood, D. Grobe -- L. Facilitani, G. S. Freund, T. Shewood, D. Grobe -- L. Facilitani, G. Shewood, G. Grobe -- L.

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O'Neill rewards Robson patience

By George Caulkin

Poland, which takes place at BRYAN ROBSON'S seasonplayers - if they are chosen expected - must spend next week together with the issue

still hanging over them. The FA cannot stage the hearing, which concerns the pair's altercation during the game between Chelsea and Liverpool on February 27. this week because Fowler is in a training camp in France and Le Saux will not return from Chelsea's game with Valerenga in Norway unol

The England players meet up at Bisham Abbey on Sunday and an FA hearing would clash with preparations for the Poland game. A spokesman for the FA said yesterday: "It's a possibility that the hearing will be held over."

yesterday denied that they had received any offers for Kevin Davies, their striker. Sheffield Wednesday were believed to have bid £4 million for Davies, who has not settled at Ewood Park since a £7.5 million transfer from Southampton

□ Blackburn Rovers

☐ Walter Smith, the manager of Everton, has dismissed reports linking Michael Ball, their England Under-21 defender, with a move to Liverpool. "There is no truth in these rumours and we can do without them," Smith said.

long search for a wide mid-field player reached a successful, if belated, cooclusion last night when Middlesbrough agreed an undisclosed fee with Norwich City for Keith O'Neill, their highly regarded Ireland international. O'Neill, 23, is expected to

sign a four-year contract today, accepting terms of £8,000 a week and therefore banishing fears that he would leave Carrow Road on a free transfer this summer. Norwich, who rejected a £4 million bid for the Dublin-born winger last season, can expect to receive only a quarter of that sum from Middlesbrough.

Robson and his assistant, Viv Anderson, watched O'Neill against Bradford City on Saturday and, in part, it is the versatility of a player who can also operate as a central striker that appeals. Although Middlesbrough bear South-



O'Neill: four-year deal

ampton 3:0 two days ago, they have struggled in the creation and converting of goals. A winger, however, has long

been a priority. Deals to take Keith Gillespie, Steve Stone, Steve Froggatt and Francesco Moriero to the Riverside Stadium have all broken down at various stages of advancement and, in the absence of new personnel, much onus has been placed on the

wing back, Dean Gordon. Like Gordon, formerly of Crystal Palace, O'Neill, who has been plagued by knee and foot injuries recently, is oaturally left-footed, but his arrival will give Robson another will give Robson another attacking option. Middles-brough have won just match in 1999 and cannot count themselves completely clear of the relegation fray.

The Sunderland manager, Peter Reid, has ridiculed sugestions that Michael Bridges, the England Under-21 striker. could be on the verge of a transfer to Newcastle United. "Michael has got a year left on his contract and we've offered him a new deal. That tells you my feelings on the subject." Reid said.

Bury, of the Nationwide League first division, yesterday signed Paul Barnes, a striker, from Huddersfield Town. The fee involved is around £40,000 and Barnes, 3L has signed a two-year contract at Gigg Lane. He will be available for Bury's match against Wolverhampton WanThe second ... was the will be the TECTION

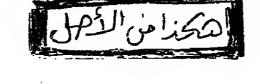
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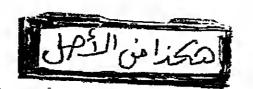
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"If we get through, we've a







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TENNIS: NEW WORLD NO 1 DISPELS DOUBTS BY DISPLAYING VERSATILITY TO BECOME MASTER OF ANY SURFACE

Moya crowned as king of all courts

FROM ALIX RAMSAY IN INDIAN WELLS, CALIFORNIA

CARLOS MOYA may have here." He also does not feel lost the battle, but he has cerminly won the war. Mark Philippoussis proved to be the etter man in Indian Wells on Sunday in the final of the Newweek Champions Cup. but as of yesterday Moya is the better man overall. His performances over the course of last week pushed him ahead of Pete Sampras in the world rankings. The margin is small, a meagre 37 points, but it is enough to crown Moya king of the hill as the tour moves on from California to Florida and the start of the Lipton championships on

It also proves that there is rather more to Spanish tennis

Greg Rusedski dropped out of the top ten in the world in the updated rankings issued yesterday. Rusedski, who has had a generally disappointing 1999, fell three places to thirteenth after his defeat in Indian Wells last week by Tim Henman, who has risen by one place to sixth.

than clay-court sluggers. Sure enough. Moya is the French Open champion, a title he won by beating Alex Corretja, his nearest rival in Spain, but the system that finds and moulds oung talent into champions has its eyes fixed on a worldwide goal. At the training centre in Barcelona, the hard courts sit alongside the clay and, as the young guns grow in confidence, so they believe they can win titles on almost

"I always considered myself a good hard-court player," Moya, 22. said, a little miffed that someone should think his week's work here was a fluke. "I reached the final in Australia, the semi-finals of the US Open, I won a title on hard courts and I have beaten most of the top players on hard courts. It's obvious that my best results have been on clay, but I didn't feel uncomfortable uncomfortable with his No I

Most people would have for-given him for throwing in the towel against Philippoussis. By beating Gustavo Kuerten in the semi-finals, he knew he had done enough to reach his greatest goal, so to pick him-self up for one more match was something of an achieve-ment. To battle for nearly three hours was remarkable. but then Moya has been looking forward to this part of his

career for some time.
"I would love to have more pressure every time," he said. I think that I handle it very well. I have proved that I canwin a grand-slam tournament, but I have also proved that I can win matches after that grand-slam. You have all the attention from everyone and I can deal with that pres-

Moyà is one of the tour's nice guys. He is a charming chap and appears so laid-back as to be almost horizontal. But in the background his support crew of Jose Perlas, his coach, and Luis Miguel Morales, his fimess trainer, have the master plan.

"Everyone knows that I am not a hard worker." Moya said, "so they are always finding new ways for me to make it easy. They make it more fun for me. We are a real team and this is very important for me. More than my coach, they are my friends, they know my

They also know how to keep Moya's spirits up. At the end of last year he led Correija by two sets to love in the final of the ATP world championships - and then lost. "It was the most disappointing day of my

Things did not get much better as the new season started, losing in the first round in Melbourne. "When you are playing that bad you think there is no way out, you cannot even put the ball in play," he said. But I kept trying. I always had belief in myself and they



Although he has had most of his success on clay, Moyà has developed into an outstanding all-court player. Photograph: Kevork Djansezian

always trust me a lot. They show me there is a way out. I start to play better in Dubai, I went on holiday and then had some good practice in Barcelona. I came to California and started to play better and bet-

How long he can keep this up and hold on to his new ranking is a matter of some debate. Sampras is so close behind him that he is almost standing on his beels, but Sampras is going through a ropy patch. His long winter break may have recharged his batteries, but it has done little for his volleys.

Yevgeny Kafelnikov is but a pace behind Sampras and. armed with his new coach, Larry Stefanki, a man used to difficult souls, having worked with John McEnroe and Marcelo Rios, the Russian is finally turning into the player that he promised to be three years ago. But Moyà does not seem to mind; he is, after all, the world No l.

This what everyone is looking for," he said. "I've done it. Maybe tomorrow another does it - it works that way. One time you are up, one time you are down. This is my time



TOP RANKING April 1993 -- Aug 1993 P Sampras

Aug 1993 - Sept 1993...... Courier April 1995 — Nov 1995 ,... . A Agessi Nov 1965 - Jan 1996, Sampras Feb 1996 — Feb 1996.... . . T Muster Feb 1996 - March 1996, .. . Sampras March 1996 — April 1996.... Muster April 1996 - March 1998 Sampras March 1998 - Aug 1998 M Rice Aug 1998 - March 1999. . Semoras



BOWLS

CHRIS HIOM, from Boston, won the British women's indoor singles title at Belfast vesterday when she beat the Welsh champion, Acres Davies, from Machynlleth's Bro Ddyfi club, 21-19 in an exciting final. Scotland, however, won all three team events, beating Irish opponents in the finals of the pairs, triples and fours. but only after making great escapes in the triples and fours.

Jane Brooksby, May Townsley and Liz Wren, from Falkirk, trailed Joyce Mulholland's Ballymoney trio 2-12 after nine ends and were still 16-12 adrift with two ends to play. Scoring two trebles, Falkirk won 18-16.

Their achievement paled into insignificance, however, compared with that of an auchinleck quartet skipped by Josephine Williamson,

BY DAVID RHYS JONES

who went into the last end needing five shots to beat County Antrim and collected a nap hand to win 20-19.

Sandra McLeish and Agnes Melrose, of Midlothian, had a relatively straightforward 17-12 victory over Kathleen Megrath and Eileen Bell, of Belfast, in the pairs final.

Bell has played for Ireland since 1966, but has never wona British title, and was naturally hoping to put right the omis-sion, but the Midlothian pair, who trailed 8-9 after 13 ends. took control over the last third, scoring nine shots to three over the last eight ends.

Hiom had to play only one. game to win the singles title,

was to be her opponent in the semi-finals, was on her way to South Africa, where she is due to play in the Atlantic Rim Games. No substitution is. allowed in the singles, and the British officials are furious that their event has been devalued by the scheduling of an international outdoor event dur-

ing the indoor season. Although Hiom had not played a real game on the green before the final, she scored a treble on the eleventh end and a full house of four shots on the thirteenth to lead 14-9, but promptly dropped six shots over the next three ends.

Scolding herself, and gesturing at every bowl, she talked ber way back into the game, until Davies went through a narrow gap between her match-winning shot and the because Margaret Letham, match-winning shot the Scottish champion, who jack on the 24th end.

ARCHERY

BASKETBALL

GOLF: AMERICAN'S FIRST BIG WIN FOR SEVEN YEARS EDGES HER NEARER LANDMARK

Hiom rides good fortune Fame supplies spur for Inkster

FOR THE RECORD

JULI INKSTER, a personable Californian, moved a point closer to the Hall of Fame with victory in the Welch's/Circle K championship at Randolph North in Tucson, Arizona, on Sunday. It was the eighteenth win of her 16-year career and she now has 21 points, just six short of the total required under the new criteria introduced earlier this year.

inkster, who had not won a full-field event since 1992, had an eagle three at the 13th, a 470-yard par-five ranked the easiest hole on the course, to vault into a lead she that never lost. She hit a seven-wood 215 yards to eight feet and the club she had once shunned also set up a birdie four at the 16th and a final round of 65, seven under par.

"I'm a traditionalist, I used to think it was a cheater's

FROM PATRICIA DAVIES IN TUCSON, ARIZONA

club," she said, "but I cheated all the way to the bank." She won \$93,750 (£56,756) with her total of 273, 15 under par, one shot ahead of her Solheim Cup colleague, Dottie Pepper, and



Inkster: traditionalist

two ahead of Catriona Matthew, of Scotland.

Matthew, who hit 17 greens. was always in contention and a birdie four at the last secured third place on her own, and a cheque for \$42,458. She is now fourteenth on the money-list

with \$89,315. Inkster, who won the US Women's Amateur title three years in a row when Tiger Woods was just starting to swing a club, has won three major titles as a professional but, unof the changes, a place in the Hall of Fame - there were only 14 members, so tough were the conditions seemed to be out of her reach. Now she is just a point behind Laura Davies and it is more

than a possibility. "It's not the world to me."

Inkster. an ultra-competitive player, admitted. "I've had a great career. I have two great kids and a great husband. But times have changed. There's the foreign invasion, a lot of the girls are having kids - it's a changing tour and we needed to change the Hall of Fame."

Beth Daniel and Amy Alcon have now qualified deservedly and the amazing Annika Sorenstam needs a mere three points. If the Swede were to win the Standard Register Ping this week and the Nabisco Dinah Shore, a major championship worth two points, next week, she would be in bar a four-year wait. She is only in her sixth season on the Ladies' Professional Golf Association Tour and the rules say she has to have been around for ien years.

SPORT

Briers is cleared of gouging charge

RUGBY LEAGUE: Lee Briers, the Warrington scrum half, was vesterday exonerated over allegations of gouging. It followed a claim by Stuart Spruce, the Bradford Bulls full back, who claimed that he was gouged during his side's 52-16 Challenge Cup quarter-final win on Sunday. The Rugby Football League executive ruled that Briers 'had no case to answer" after they examined the incident on video. Briers's team-mate, Danny Farrar, the Warrington hooker and captain, was also told he would not be facing any action after being placed on report by the referee, John Connolly, for a possible high tackle in the same match.

E RUGBY UNION: Australia is set to break the world attendance record of 95,000 with ticket sales for the Bledisloe Cup match with New Zealand on August 28 John O'Neill, the Australian Rugby Union managing director, said yesterday that crowd figures, at present approaching six figurees, could even beat the 104,000 rugby league world-record attendance that was set at the opening fixtures of the Australian Rugby League championship at the Olympic stadium last week. Ticket sales have outstripped single-day sales for the rugby league double-header," he said.

E GOLF: Patrik Sjoland, of Sweden, who leared he had just missed out on a Masters debut next month, has been added to the starting line-up at Augusta. Sjoland. 27. thought he might have to reach the world's top 50 to receive an invitation. He dropped to 53rd last week but has finally been rewarded for finishing fifth on the European order of merit last season. Miguel Angel Jinienez, of Spain, who retained his Turespaña Masters title on Sunday, has also been called up for the first major of the year.

MOTOR RACING: Michael Schumacher twisted an ankle while jogging and will miss private testing today and tomorrow in Barcelooa, a spokesman for the double world champion said vesterday. Heiner Buchinger said the injury was not serious and would not prevent Schumacher from taking part in the next race. the Brazilian Grand Prix, oo April II in São Paulo. TABLE TENNIS: England should know next week whether the world

championships in Belgrade next month will be called off because of the policical situation in the Balkans. The United States have already pulled out of the 14-day tournament, which begins on

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL Kick off 7 30 unless stated denotes all-lickel Unio Cup AS Roma (1) - Allerco Madrid (2) Celta Vigo (1) v Marseilles (2) (8.45) -Lyons (0) v Bologna (3)... Parma (1) v Bordeaux (2) (5.30) ... FA Cap Shith round Earnsley v Tottermam (7.45)....

Nationwide League Bury v Waverhompton (7 45) Second division Brackpool - Bournemouth ... Marchecter City v Norts County '7 45; Stoke v Futham (7 45)

Third givision Auto Windscreens Shield Northern section final First leg

gan v Wheeham (7 45) Second leg Nationalide Conference Contentario Farmanago (* 45)... Normann y Descasor (7 45) Roching on Thursday Dove 7.45: Walling v Eleverage 7.45: Walling v Kessena, 144:

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Stordord v Heybridge (at St Alben's City. 7.45) Culvich v Billaticay, Hempton v Enseld, Herston v Sudon United, Herston v Sudon United, Herston v Sudon United, Herston v Sudon United, Herston v Barton Rovers v Staines: Bognor Regis v Berthamsted: Gasys v Historic Leatenhead v Whyseleale; Macdenhead v Leyton Permett. Second division: Bartistad v Willermore: Barting v Windsor and Eron Edysaese v Tooting and Mitchern, Herner Hentpstead v Bedford Town, Herlord Volorimood; Met Poide v Marlow, Wilman v Hertow Wolengham v Legitian Town. Third division: Contribunit Legitian form. Third division: Contribunit Legitian form. The TIMES FA YOUTH CUP: Fifth round: Cupens Park Rangers v Notting-Time Towns, York West Hem.

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Portsmouth Cheens Park Rangers v Notting-Time Cost. York v West Hem.

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: Promitted of County Ground, 7.15).

PONTINT'S LEAGUE Presider division: Leads v Preston (7.0) First division: Output Valor Burney (7.0) William Leads v Reserved (7.0) Kent Leagues Enth v Becleshten.

Contrain v Shethett Wednesday (7.0), Port Valo - Burney (7.0) Winsstorm v Shethett Wednesday (7.0), Port Valo - Burney (7.0) Winsstorm Ead Kent League: Premier league: Enth v Beokenham; Herne Bay v Faversham.

SCREWRYK DRIECT LEAGUE: Premier division: Barnstople v Bridgewater, Bristington v Bishop Souton, Bristol Merior Form v Melestram. Paulton Rovers v Chipperham Westbury v Yeovi Town Rovers v Chipperham Westbury v Yeovi Town Rovers v Chipperham Westbury v Yeovi Town Rovers v Samenam Spart And South Mindson Berught Premier division: Barland Rovers v Seasonsheld Sycob Hoddesdon v Hodge Collegan Garden v Britisdown or Courage Collegan Congregat v Westbert Forman v Waster Casuals, Reading Town v Golden, Valor South Fastern Collegan (Versicht Vale LENSON EASTENN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Ey v V 1 2000; Pisston / Scham, Makkon v Newbert v Season v Scham, Makkon v Newbert v Estbury v End Cowes.

URLSPORT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Chescharch v End Cowes.

URLSPORT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Courage of the Counties of League; Ford South v Backengham, St New v Sparking, Stocket v Yadey.

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HORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE:
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OTHER SPORT des Mocrosto Satonda play-off championalist Group & Nationalist Group & Nationalist (7 30)

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MATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NEA): West-ington 98 Milwayles 65: Detroit 72 Allanta 85; New York 94 Charlotte 96; Phosnik 104 Houston 99; Indiana 99 Boston 96; Mismi ID2 New Jersey 76; Saccamento 105 LA Lat-ers 101. Seattle 108 LA Cappers 69. BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Sunday's result. Chester Jets 106 Peugeot Bullets Birming-lam 109.

BELFAST: British women's indoor cham-pleaships: Seral-finale: Singles: A Deviet (Bro Ddyll, Wates) bit A Doggat (Belfast, te) 21-17: C Hom (Beston, Eng) who, M Lethern (Blantyre, Scot) sor Finale: Singles: Hom by Device 21- '29. Pairs: Singles: Hom by Michael British, Scot) bit K Megnath and E Bell (Belfast, ke) 17-12. Triples: J Brooks-by, M Toersioy, E Wen (Feller, Scot) bit P Calvar, A Ellicit, J Multipliand (PTBC, Baly-mous, K Adams, J Williamson, M Adams, R Gi-mous, K Adams, J Williamson, (Auchanisch, Scot) bit M Williamson, M Croig, M Cameron, G Lew (County Anthin, Ira) 20-18

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Second Test match New Zealand v South Africa

CHRISTO-IURCH (final day of five): New Zealand draw with South Africa NEW ZEALAND: First brings 168 (S M. Potock 4 for 34) Second mmnas E A Young not out FALL OF WICKET. 107.

SOUTH AFFECA: First Interior 442 for 1 de-clared (in H Gobs 211 not out J H Kalls 148 not out, G Kirstan 65). Umphres: K T-Pearole (Sn Larks) and O M Quested.

Asian Test championship Sri Lanka v Pakistan DHAKA (fourth day of five) Pakistan beet Sn Lanks by an innings and 175 runs SRI LANKA: First trinings 231 (P A de Silva 72; Arstad Khan 5 for \$8).

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-5, 2-5, 3-9, 4-48, 5-59, 6-69, 7-61, 8-101, 9-115. BOWLING, Wasim Akrem 7-0-33-3; Shoalb Akher 10.4-3-26-0; Saglain Musitaq 28.5-15-46-3; Arshad Khen 12-3-41-1, She-hid Ahidi 7-1-31-2 PANISTAN: First Irvings: 594 (fizz Ahmed 211, Inzamem-ut-Hen 200 not out, Saeed Anwar 57: U O U Chenden 6 for 179)

Umpires: 0 S Cowe (New Zeeland) and O R Shaphard (England). · CYCLING

ALBA ADRIATICA, hay: Tereno Adrigi-co race: Shith stage (170km): 1, 8 Ven-shins (La) Shith 45mm 25cc, 2 F Baldato (N): 3. G Metabo Fagnini (M), 4, 8 Corte (N): 5, Hoffman (Hol) et same time, 6, M Canneti (Swiz) at 25cc, 7, P (Lipumov (Rasi) & 8, 6 Parriond (N): 145: 9, A Pelacchi (N): 10, 1

WINCHESTER COLLEGE: Men's rational doubles champtonship: Quarter-finals: 1 Fuliar and D Hebden bt J Armasge and J Gribble 15-2, 15-0; S Constantive and R Bart bt T Macone and R Billington 15-4.
15-9; N Austin and R Nagy bt A Wilson and J Schroeter 6-15, 15-13, 15-6, 11 Bucharan

and the control of th

and R Peny bt H Wiseman and M Wiseman 18-8, 15-9 Semi-finals: Futer and Heb-den bt Constantine and Barr 15-6, 15-0; Bucharien and Peny bt Austria and Nagy 15-8, 12-15, 15-13. Finals Futer and Heb-BOWLING, Pollock 12-4-23-0; Kusarer 17-4-33-0; Adams 15-0-52-0, Kaffs 6-2-13-0, Cronje 4-3-1-0.

Women's National Championships.
Singles: Charter-finals: P Smith bt T
Marden 15-4; K White bil A Wells, 15-6; D
Hell-Witon bt D Watson 15-6; E Tachmen
bt M Love 15-3; Semi-finals: Smith bt
White 15-7; Tachmen bt Host-Witon 15-7;
Finals: Smith bt Tachmen 15-7; 15-9 Doubles: Semi-finals: P Smith and O HallWiton bt A Wells and M Rees 15-7; K
Witze and E Tachmen bt M Love and G
Yeteman 15-7; Finals Smith and HeliWiton bt White and Tachmen 15-9, 15-7.

ARGENTINE LEAGUE: Independente 1
Newell's Old Boys 1, Union 2 Huradan 2;
Germasia de Jujuy 0 Boos Jumos 2, Estudiantes de la Plate 3 Velez Sarsield I; San Lorando 3 Colon 1, Tallanes 3 Platense 2, Rosario Centrel 2 Rading Cub 1; Ferrodand Ocaza D Cimmasia y Esgima La Plata 1; River Plate 2 Argentinos Juniors 0.

guesa Santasta 2 Rio Branco 2, Comiti-ura 0 Sao Paulo 3; Barbarensa 0 Palme-ras 1; Guarani 1 Internacional Limeira 2.

FLORIDA: Honder Classic: Leading final acores (United States unites states); 277: V Singh (Fig) 71, 59, 68, 69 279: P Stewert 70, 67, 72, 70, 280: E Booler 65, 68, 72, 77; 0 Ourskey 70, 65, 75, 70, C Franco (Par) 72, 58, 71, 69, M O'Meara 68, 70, 68, 73, 282: H Station 64, 73, 76, 69, 17, 28, 280; C Risey 69, 71, 72, 71, S Appelev (Aus) 69, 70, 59, 75, 284; C Defero 75, 58, 70, 71, M Brooks 70, 73, 70, 71; O Substand 70, 72, 70, 72, 286; C Risey 69, 71, 72, 71, S Appelev (Aus) 69, 70, 59, 76, 73; S Pale 69, 70, 72, 73, 73, 74, 10, 286; C Risey 70, 72, 72, 71; J Cook 70, 69, 74, 72; P Stankowski 69, 67, 76, 73; S Pale 69, 70, 75, C Stader 69, 59, 71, 76, 18 Geoberger 72, 56, 71, 76; H Frazar 69, 72, 86, 76, 70, 75; C Stader 69, 58, 71, 76; B Geoberger 72, 56, 71, 58, 77, 73, Hughes (Aus) 67, 68, 70, 80 Other scores; 287; C Monitopmene (GB) 72, 70, 72, 73, 293; A Lyle (GB) 72, 71, 76, 74

Poserio Centrel 2 Racing Club 1: Ferrication (Oeste 0 Gimmana y Esgrima La Plata 1: River Piete 2 Argentinos Juniors 0.

BRAZILIAN LEAGUE: Sentos 1 Moton-enas 1: Morg Merm () Portuguesa 1: Portu-(GE) 9.10; 7, V Singh (Fiji) 8.70, 8, C Mont-

SCOTTISH
PREMIER LEAGUE
39 Dundes v Hearts X
40 Dunfimine y Statinstine2

41 Motherwell v Aberdee

Saturday, March 20 Coupon no. Storre, result FA CARLING 1 Arsenti v Covertry 2 Leeds v Derby 1 3 Noticm F v MicidlesbroX

4 South pion v Sneff Wed 2 5 West Harn v NewcasteX NATIONWIDE LEAGUE FIRST DIVISION 6 Samsley v Wolves 2 7 Bristol Cv Bracsord C2 9 Crystel F v Grinsby 16 Huddield v Smenglem 2 11 Norwich v Porsmouth 2 12 OPR v Swindon 1 13 Shoft Utd v Port Vale 1

14 Stockport v Trammere 1

BEST DRAWS: Notingham Forest, West Harn, West Bromwich, Carliste, Darlington

AWAYS: Woverhampton, Britingham, Macdesfield Wigan, Barret

15 Waterd v Bury 1 16 West Brom v Ipswich X SECOND DIVISION 17 Chesterfield v Luten 1 18 Fulham y Bladipool 19 Gilingham y Lincoln 21 Oldham v Milwad 22 Preston v Boumemouth 1

POOLS FORECAST

34 Rotherham v Peterboro 1 35 Sounthorpe v Leyton OX 36 Shrewsbury v Chester 1 37 Swansea v Halifax 1 38 Torquay v Scarboro 22 Prestor v Bournersough 1 23 Reading v Wycombe 1 24 Stoke v Notto County X 25 Walsal v Brestol R 1 26 Wreatum V Burnky 1 27 York v Wigan 2 THIRD DIVISION 42 Rengors v Dundee U 1 SCOTTISH LEAGUE

FIRST DIVISION
43 Ayr V St Minen
44 Cyclebank v Rath
45 Fakelt v Hamilan
46 Hiberman v Ardne
47 Stranzer v G Morton
2 THIRD pressure
28 Cambige v Mansfield 1
29 Cariste v Brentford X
30 Caristopor v SouthendX
31 Hantepool v Brighton 1
32 Hull v Plymouth 1 SECOND DIVISION 48 Alloa v Queen oi SouthX 49 Clyde v Arbroath 1 TREBLE CHANCE (home leans), Noting-hem Forest, West Harr, West Brommon, Okthem, Stoke, Carlsle, Dartington, Scunthorpe, Dundee, Alice.

HOMES: Arsenal, Leeds, Crewe, Wallord, Gillingham, Reading, Hartlepool, Swansea, Torquay PDED ODDS: Homes: Arsenel, Crewc, Harlispool, Swansee, Torquay. Aways: Brrongham, Macclesfield, Wigan Drews: West Ham, West Bromwich, Carliste Wince Wright

gomenė (GB) 8 41; 9, N Proce (Zm) 7.76; 10, J Leonard 7.51, 11, P Mickelson 7.29, 12, J Furyk 7.27; 13, E Couples 7.05, 14, M Osala Liapani 6.72; 15, J Maggert 6.28, 16, S Elsungion (Aus.) 6.20 17, O Clarice (GB) 5.73, 18, P Stewart 5.75, 19, J Parney-k (Swe) 5.57; 20, Lee Janzen 5.0

k (Swe) 5.57: 20, Lee Jarcen 5.0

TUCSON, Artona: Wesh's/Circle K champlonship: Laeding final scores (United States unless states) 273: J Investe 68, 77, 69, 65, 274: D Pepcer 67, 69 69, 69 275: C Matthew (GB) 73, 59, 65, 58, 276: A Prop-Bunch 67, 71, 72, 66, 7 Green 68, 73, 67, 69, H Stacy 72, 68, 65, 70, N Scramon 70, 65, 71, 70, 277: K Webb Ausi 74, 69, 66, 66, H Altredsson (Swe) 69, 67, 73, 68, 276: M Redman 71, 69, 65, 73, 0 Eggeling 68, 67, 69, 74, 276: A DeLuca 65, 74, 69, 68, C Sorenstath (Swe) 72, 70, 68, 69, 280: K Robbins 68, 69, 91, 89, K Robbins 68, 69, 98, 98, 98, K Robbins (Sine) 72, 70, 58, 69, 289, 89, K Robbars 72, 67, 70, 71, T Harson 71, 67, 71, 71 Other scores: 282; M McKey (GB) 73,71,70,68, 289; J Morley (GB) 72, 73, 72, 72, L Davies (GB) 71, 71, 74, 73; 8 Lowe (GB) 72, 73, 70, 74

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Nashville 3 Edmonton 1 Cheago 2 St Laule 5 Colora-do 1 Detroit 3, NY laumders 2 NY Rangers 3 IOTI SEKONDA PLAY-OFF CHAMPIONSHIP: Group A: Manchester Storm 4 London Knights 1, Shettield Steelers 3 Brad-net Bees 4 Group B: Candil Devis 6 Ay Scot-lish Eagles 3. Newcastle Riverkings 2 Not-lingham Panthers 3

LACROSSE

HIGH WYCOMBE: Under-19 Canada Tour: Wycombe Abbey School 15 Canada 4, Berkhamsiead Collegaile 7 Canada 7

WALES SQUAD (to face traly in Treveo March 20) S Howarth (Manchester Sale). G Thomas (Cardif), M Taylor (Swansca), S Gibbs (Swansca) D James (Portypndt), M Jentinis (Pomtypndt), R Howley (Cardif), capt) P Rogers (London Irish), G Jentinis (Swansca), B Evers (Swansca), C Guttmall (Inchmond), C Wysti (Lanelli) C Charvis (Swansca) B Sinkinson (Neath), S Quinnell (Lanelli) N Walne (Rothmond), O Llewellyn (Ebbr Vale), G Lewis (Portyphd.) M Voyle (Lanelli) D Monte (Swansca), B Williams (Richmond)

SCOTLAND SQUAD (to face treland at Murrayfield March 20): Gary Armstrong (Nextaske Fakens), Craig Chalmers (Co-riburgh Revies), Jein Fakrley (Ednough Reviers), John Laelle, Glacony Caledon-are) Kenny Logan (Wasper, Shaun Long-

staff (Glasgow Caledonians), Glens Met-calte (Glasgow Caledonians), Cameron Murray (Edinburgh Revers), Alain Tali (Ed-inburgh Revers), Gregor Townsend (Enve), Steven Brotherstone (Edinburgh Revers), Gordon Bulloch (Glasgow Cale-donians), Paul Burnell (London Scottish). Start Grimes (Glesgow Caledonians). Devid Hilton (Bath), Martin Lealie (Edin-burgh Revers), Scott Murray (Edinoid, Eric Peters (Beth), Budge Pourtinsy (Northampton), Andy Reed (Wasps), Tom Smith (Glesgow Caledonians). Peter Watton (Respon Caledonians).

SNOOKER

WPBSA RANKINGS: 1, J Higgers (ScoT) 40.405prs 2 S Hendry (ScoT) ≥9 500 3, M Williams (Wales) 28,910, 4, R O Sulvran (Engl 27,475 5, J Panoti (Engl 24,250 6, S Lee (Engl 23,805 7, K Obretly (fre) 23,005 8, A McMarus (Scot) 21,275, 9, M S3,005 (Wales) 18,670, 10, P Hunter (Engl) 16,115 SNOWBOARDING

OLAND, Italy: World Cup event: Cross: 1. U Fingerios (Austra) 2. M Regier (Austra) 13. J Jonsson (Swe) British jedeng: 5. L McKerna: Half-pipe: 1. T Byrnes (US) 2. V Bourder (Fr) 3. F. Stacey (US) British placing: 15, McKerna

TOULOUSE: Women's Open; Final: T Ma-lik. (Wales) bt S Shabena (Egypti 9-3, 7-9, 9-7, 9-7

INDIAN WELLS, California: Chempions' Cup: Finat: M Philippoussic (Aus.) bi C Moya (Sp) 5-7, 6-4, 6-4 4-6, 6-2 Moya (Sp) 5-7, 6-4, 6-3 4-6, 6-2 HOLVPOHT: British Ameteur Singles Champjongalips: Second round: J Snow by A Lumsden 6-2, 6-0, 6-0 C Danby bit H Edds 6-4, 3-6, 6-2, 6-3 J Achesson-Gray to 8 Feurle Beculiou 6-1, 8-0, 6-0 N Loyd on N Pendingh w/o. M Ward by P Miss 8-2, 6-4 6-4; R Francis bit J Penn 6-1, 6-3, 6-0 J Willocks bit S Barker w/o WINDOWS O'S ISANG W.O
ATP RANKINGS: 1, C Moya (SDI 3-18-tcts
2 P Sampras (USI 3-14-7, 3 Y Kateriwo,
(Buss) 3382, 4 A Cometa (SDI 3050, 5, P
Rotter (Aus) 3115 6, 1 Henman (SBI 2000;
7 R Krajock (Hot) 2677; 3 M Foss (Chee)
2454; 9, A Agoss (USI 2376 10 Y Masin
(USI 2300).

(USI 2300. W Hinds (Switz) 5.449 2 L Davenport ILS/ 5.615 5 M Section 105/ 5 M Section 105/ 5 M Section 105/ 5 M Section 105/ 5 M Section

TELEVISION CHOICE

CRICKET: AUSTRALIA ON BACK FOOT AS LARA SHAKES OFF DOUBTS OVER HIS CAPTAINCY.

West Indies are sunny side up

FROM PAT GIBSON IN KINGSTON, JAMAICA

THE morning haze had still not been burnt off the Blue Mountains that form the magnificent backdrop to Sabina Park here when Brian Lara was out yesterday, having added only one to his overnight 212 in the second Test aginst Australia, but the sun was shining again on West

It is impossible to evaluate the long-term effect of argua-bly the greatest innings that even he has played but, for the moment, there was no doubt that it had lifted the mood of not only his West Indies team but also the entire Caribbean. Certainly no one was questioning his right to be captain any

Lara being Lara, he would have had his sights set on his Test-record 375, if not his highest first-class score of 501 not out, when he resumed his innings, so there was an overwhelming sense of anoclimax when he pushed forward to a fine ball from Glenn McGrath that pitched just outside off stump but straightened and gave lan Healy, the wicketkeeper, his first catch of the

He had barred for 466 minutes, faced 344 deliveries and hit three sixes and 29 fours in a performance that made a mockery of what he is supposed to have said to Steve Waugh, the Australia captain, when he lost the toss.

Thank goodness I will not have to go through this again," Lara is purported to have said. We may never know whether he was expecting to be dismissed or planning to resign, but he had brought about such a transformation that the bookmakers' odds of 7-4 on an Australia win and 20-1 against West Indies at the start of the second day had changed to 8-1 against Australia and 15-8 on West

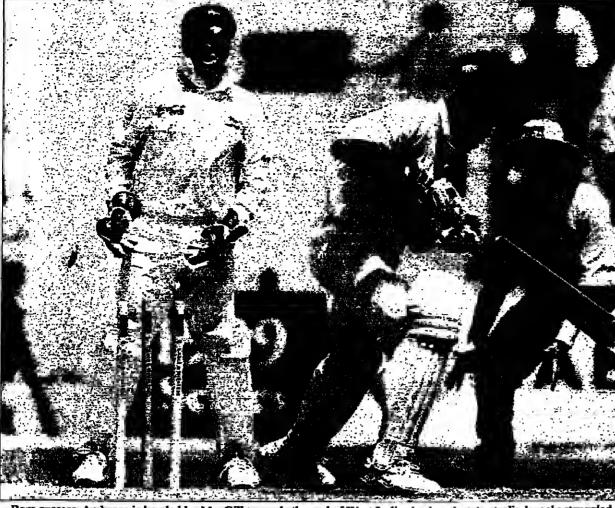
Indies by yesterday morning.

How much his batting means to his side was further emphasised when, starting with his dismissal, they lost their last six wickets for 54, but they still had a potentially decisive lead of 175 on a pitch beginning to misbehave.

Nor should the support that Lara received from Jimmy Adams, his supposed rival for the captaincy, in a record-breaking fifth-wicket stand of 322 be underestimated. As Lara was quick to point out: There is no doubt that, without Jimmy's help, it would not have been possible. He was really special."

Until the arrival of Shivmarine Chanderpaul, Adams had been regarded as the most reliable batsman in the West Indies, but his Test average, 86 in 14 Tests at the start of the last Australian series four years ago, had dwindled to 51 in 33 at the start of this one.

His cheekbone and his confi-



Rare success: Ambrose is bowled by MacGill towards the end of West Indies innings but Australia largely struggled

the 1995 tour of England, but he has never lost his love of batting. His patience and unselfishness perfectly complement-ed Lara's brilliant strokeplay.

It was a shame Adams was not rewarded with a century. He has not made one in Tests since his 208 not out against New Zealand in Antigua three years ago and he was still six runs short yesterday when he did not quite get across to a short, lifting ball from Mc-Grath and was caught in the

gully. That gave McGrath his third five-wicket haul in successive Test innings.

Ridley Jacobs and Nehemiah Perry, the smiling Jamaican off spinner who is making his Test debut, added valuable runs before the leg spinners. Shane Warne and Stuart MacGill, finally got into the act. When Warne had Jacobs caught at mid-on, he was taking his first wicket in 58 overs since he dismissed England's Mark Butcher in the Sydney

Pakistan confirm status

Test and MacGill was into his 21st over when he had Pedro Collins caught at slip.

MacGill went on to leave himself on a hat-trick by removing Curtly Ambrose with the last ball before lunch and Courtney Walsh with the first one afterwards, but by then West Indies, who had not made 300 in their previous 12 Test innings, had reached 431. Not just the leg spinners

struggled. Steve Waugh some-

ing, 100, on the first occasion

pressure as captain. To add to his problems, the pitch that had played so well on the second day was beginning to crack and Ambrose and Walsh, who could not remember the last time they had been able to put their feet up for so long, were relishing the chance to prove that they are not finished yet.

that he has been put under

Sure enough, in his first over, Walsh struck for his 409th Test wicket when Michael Slater, trying to cut, played on.

SCOREBOARD

J L Langer not out M E Waugh not out Edras (nb, 4)......

Total (2 wids, 21.5 overs) 38
FALL OF WICKETS 1-4, 2-36
BOWLING: Ambrose 5-2-7-0; Walsh
7-1-15-1; Peny 8-3-7-1; Collins 3.5-0-10-0. WEST INDIES: First Innings

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-4, 2-5, 3-17, 4-34, 5-378, 6-398, 7-420, 8-427, 9-431.

Umpires: P Wiley (England) and S A Bucknor.

Overture; Variations on a shame of Haydin); Beethoven (Symphony No 7 in A major); Handel (Water Music Suite No 1 in Finiajor); 11,00 Mann et Night. Music and conversation through till the small hours with Alan Mann 2.00em Concerto Viveldi (Cello Concerto in Finejor) (r) 3.00 Mark Griffiths, Introduces the Early Breaklast Show

Ouertet at St George's, Brandon Hill, Bristol.
Brahms (String Cuartet No 2 in A minor, Op 51 No 2); Tchaikoveky (String Cuartet No 2 in F, Op 22)
9.00 Postscript: The Pas de Deux (2/5)
9.20 Nash Ersemble under Martyn Brabbins, Ian Brown, plano, Rossmany Hardy, soprano.
Beethoven (Trio in B flat, Op 11); Berg, arr de Leauw (Seven Early Songs); Mahler (Des knaben Wunderhorn); Streuss (Sults for 13 Wind Instruments, Op 4)
10.45 Night Waves How does public space improve the life of those who live in cities? Richard Coles examines the meaning, function and importance of our urban social spaces
11.30 Jazz Notes Ahmet Ertsgun, the founder of Atlantic Records, tells Alyn Shipton about his passion for jazz.

Atlantic Records, tells Afyn Shipton about his passion for jazz.

12.00 Composer of the Week: Delius (f)

1.00am Through the Night 1.00 Musica Antiqua Koln and director Reinhard Goebel perform music from 17th-century northern Europe 2.15 Beethoven (Piano Sonata in A flat, Op 110) 2.40 Corelli (Trio Sonata in A minor, Op 1 No 4 2.45 Chopin (Anderle spianato and Grande polonaise brillante) 3.00 Schools: Playtime 3.15 Time to Move 3.35 Let's Make a Story 3.50 Drama Workshop 4.10 in the News 4.30 Hop. Skip and Jump 4.45 Aryss 2'bhad 5.00 Chopin (Ballade No 2 in F, Op 38) 5.15 Weber (Clarinot Culntet in B flat, Op 34) 5.45 Bach (Brandenburg Concerto No 3 in G)

RADIO 4

12.00 (FM) News 12.04pm You and Yours Topical consumer news and investigations, presented by Mark Whittaker and Trine Rawlinson
1.00 The World at One with Nick Clarke
1.30 The Musical Side of the Family The Rt Rev Brian Hannon of Clogher talks about the challenges of having a rock star son (2/6)
2.00 The Archers Broadcast yesterday (r)
2.15 Afternoon Play: The Winter Journey Tale of an Antarctic expectition to study penguin embryology. Written by Patricia Hanneh, G.W. Fraser and Minns Buff. See Choice
3.00 The Exchange: 0870 010 0444 Peter White Invites lightners' views on a topical issue

7.15 Front Row The live nightly arts programme,

7.15 Front Row The live nightly arts programme, presented by Mark Lawson
7.46 The Cry of the Bittern Environmental drame, starting lan Pepperell. Broadcast earlier as part of Woman's Hour (r)
9.00 Face the Facts New series. See Choice
8.40 in Touch Peter White presents news for visually impered people
9.00 Virus: the Unseen Enemy James Ertichmen investigates the politics of disease, locusing on

FREQUENCY GUIDE, RADIO 1. FM 97.6-98.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.8; LW 198; MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 698, 909. WORLD SERVICE. MW 648; LW-198 (12.45-5.55em); CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO 4. FM 105.8; MW 1053, 1089.

as Asian champions PAKISTAN carried off the By Our Sports Staff Yesterday. Wasim made his first Asian Test championship presence felt in the field. A wa De Silva, Both Saolain fine throw to run out Marvan Mushtaq, who finished with three for 46, and Arshad Atanattu broke the fourthwicket partnership with Rus-Khan extracted turn and

in commanding style by beating Sri Lanka by an innings and 175 runs in the final at Dhaka yesterday, completing victory with a day to spare. Sri Lanka, who resumed their second innings at nine for three, were bowled out for

of 71, made against Pakistan in Kandy five years ago. Some lusty hitting by Upul Chandana and Hashan Tille-

188, but at 61 for seven they were in danger of failing to surpass their lowest Test score

keratne spared them that indignity. Tillekeratne ending on 55 not out, having hit ten fours. He shared a last-wicket dence had been shattered on partnership of 73 with Sajee-

bounce and Shaid Afridi, with his quicker variety of leg breaks, also gained some purchase on a wearing pitch.

The Pakistan captain, Wasim Akram, who on Sunday took his second hat-trick in consecutive Tests against Sri Lanka, was named man of the series, in which India were the third contestants. liaz Ahmed, who scored a maiden double-century to lay the foundation for Pakistan's match-winning total of 594, was the man of the match.

sell Arnold, who was then picked up at slip by Wasim, aiming a loose drive at

"My recovery has been

Some consolation for Sri Lanka came when their buccaneering opening batsman, Sanath Jayasuriya, injured during the tour of Australia, said that was he certain to be fit for the World Cup, although he will miss a threenations tournament in India.

good and I can bat," Jayasuriya said, "but I don't know if I can field 100 per cent."

BOWLING: McGrath 35-11-93-5; GBlespie 33-7-79-1; Warne, 30-8-84-1; MacGill 22-3-3-84-3; Blewett 10-1-48-0; M E Waugh 2-0-13-0.

Atherton and Thorpe lift England's cup plans

ENGLAND have been given a Cup in Shariah next month.

ton, Graham Thorpe, Neil choosing replacements before their departure for the Lahore training camp on March 28.

by back injuries in Australia this winter, have had intensive treatment at Lilleshall while Austin, who underwent knee surgery last October, has also By OUR SPORTS STAFF

recovered. Fairbrother, his

reports on the players are encouraging." David Graveney, the chairman of selectors, said. "All of them need to continue to work on their overall fitness levels and they will do that before we depart for Lahore."

Atherton and Austin will gain useful match practice on Lancashire's tour of South Africa, which began yester-

Middlesex have signed Mike Roseberry, their former bassman, from Durham. Rose-

berry, 32, had ten seasons at Lord's before leaving to captain his native county four years ago. However, his career at Durham has been affected by loss of form and injury and he is leaving the club with two

stayed at home to exercise..

years of a six-year contract still to run. South Africa's hopes of forcing victory over New Zealand on the final day of the second

Test in Christchurch were dashed by the weather and the home side's opening batsmen. Rain prevented any play

until the afternoon and when the action did resume Matthew Home and Bryan Young secured their side's survival with a stand of 107.

Mohammed Azharuddin, the world's most-capped one-day player, will captain India for the third consecutive time in the World Cup this summer. Sachin Tendulkar's back injury is causing concern, however, and the announcement of the India squad will be delayed until April 4.



Azharuddin: third cup

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SYNDROMF AVOCIATION

Regrification (see \$400.50) Scotts (ship 22000)

clean bill of health before they complete their preparations for the World Cup this sum-mer by entering the Coca-Cola Doubts over Michael Ather-

Fairbrother and Ian Austin after recent injuries left England facing the possibility of But Atherton and Thorpe, both of whom were troubled

Lancashire team-mate, suffered hamstring trouble throughout the Carlton and United one-day tournament in Australia. "We are pleased the fitness

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 45 HAWKSHAW

(c) A detective. The eponym of the detective in The Ticket-of-Leave Man (1863), a play by Tom Taylor, English dramatist (1817-1880). Also in the comic strip Hawkshaw the Detective, by Gus Mager, American cartoonist (died 1956). "He didn't even whimper when the village hawkshaw snappoed the bracelets on (c) A breed of sheep. Also its fur or wollen fabric made from it.

The adult wild mouffion is in its proportions but little in ad-

vance of the improved Suffolk lamb."

(b) The collecting of bank-notes as a hobby. The nota- is Latin. the -phily is Greek. The Times, 1973: "Collectors have coined the ugly name notaphilists to describe themselves. About 20 of the highest-denomination notaphilists came to the auction."

(c) A richly coloured variety of golden beryl found in South West Africa. The Greek words mean sun gift. "Heliodor is found only on the barren slopes of Rossing Mountain. Apparently it does not exist anywhere else in the world. German prospectors dis-covered the first deposit, and the lovely greenish-yellow opalescent stones were set in the form of a cross."

SOLUTION TO WINNING MOVE 1 Rxe4! fxe4 2 Be5+! dxe5 3 Qxe5+ Kg8 4 d6+ and the black queen

Sec. 355.

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Portrait of an icon

Alan Hansen talks to soccer's superstars. such as David Beckham (BBCl, 10.30pm)

footballer." Well, in monetary terms, probably not The cream of the younger stars turn out for Hansen (he speaks their language, after all), plus a scrum of agents, former players, managers and football-crazy youngsters. The lads are not the most scintillaring of interviewees — but you can almost smell the money.

The Larry Sanders Show BBC2, 11.35pm

Sanders has a big hand in the writing and production of this series, so when he blasts away at corporate politicians in the television industry you feel he's trying to tell us something — or at least tell his American colleagues on the slippery slopes. In under half an hour this episode says more about the back stabbing that goes on among agents, sars and studio bosses than many a more learned tract. The fun (and the F-words) are still there but the underlying irony has a dying fall. It looks, when they strip him of his familiar on-set desk, as if Larry might be for the chop. So he jumps the gun and tells his loyal studio audience that he's going to leave anyway. Surely not. This may be the last of the present series but another is in the pipeline . . isn't it?

There has been a deal of welcome structural impo-vation in the Afternoon Play slot and today's offer-ing maintains that trend. The Winter Journey is a once bleak and uplifting; it is really three perspect-ives on the same (true) story, by three writers. The linking strand is the three-year British expedition to Antarctica which set out in 1910. The play has

each of the men in turn reflecting on the journey, the time spent in a stone igloo when their supply tent blew away and their return to base camp. But

other layers, such as the men's relationships with women, are explored and extracts from Hans

Christian Andersen's The Snow Queen are woven into the narrative. Ketmeth Cranham, David

Rintoul and James Fleet star. Peter Barnard

BBC WDRLD SERVICE

5.00cm The World Today 7.00 World News 7.15 Cutlock 7.55 My Carbury 8.00 World News 8.05 Performance 8.20 Off the Shelf: Enduring Love 8.35 Decovery 9.00 World News 9.05 The Moonstone 9.20 Junction Box 9.50 Sports Round-Up 10.00 Newsdesk: 10.30 Shisin' Today 10.45 Good Books 11.00 Newsdesk: 11.30 Omnibus 12.00 World News 2.05 Decovery 2.30 On Screen 3.00 World News 2.05 Decovery 2.30 On Screen 3.00 World News 2.05 Sports Round-Up 3.15 Westway 3.30 Everyworman 4.00 World News 4.15 Insight 4.30 Megamix 5.00 Europe Today 5.30 World Business Report 5.45 Sports Round-Up 8.00 World News 4.15 British Today 6.30 Omnibus 7.00 World News 7.05 Decovery 7.30 Human Remains 7.46 Off the Shelf: Enduring Love 8.00 Newshour 9.00 World News 9.05 World Business 1; Report 9.20 Britain Today 9.30 Meridian Live 10.00 World News 11.85 Cutlock-11.55 Insight 12.00 The World Today 12.30 Cn. Screen 2.00 The World Today 2.20 Mapping the World 3.00 The World Today 3.20 Sports Round-Up 3.30 World Business Report 3.45 Insight 4.00 The World Today 1.30 World Susiness Report 3.45 Insight 4.00 The World Today 3.00 World Susiness Report 3.45 Insight 4.00 The World Today 1.30 World Business Report 3.45 Insight 4.00 The World Today 1.30 World Business Report 3.45 Insight 4.00 The World Today 1.30 World Business Report 3.45 Insight 4.00 The World Today 1.30 World Business Report 3.45 Insight 4.00 The World Today 1.30 World Today 3.20 Sports Round-Up 3.30 World Business Report 3.45 Insight 4.00 The World Today 1.30 World Business Report 3.45 Insight 4.00 The World Today 1.30 World Business Report 3.45 Insight 4.00 The World Today 1.30 World Business Report 3.45 Insight 4.00 The World Today 1.30 World Business Report 3.45 Insight 4.00 The World Today 1.30 World Business Report 3.45 Insight 4.00 The World Today 1.30 World Business Report 3.45 Insight 4.00 The World Today 1.30 World Business Report 3.45 Insight 4.00 The World Today 1.30 World Business Report 3.45 Insight 4.00 The World Today 1.30 World Business Report 3.45 Insight 4.00 The World Today

CLASSIC FM

6.00em Nick Bailey's Easier Breaklast. Soothing music and Information updates 9,00 Michael Mappin, Includes the Hell of Fame Hour and CO of the Wesk 12,00 Lunchtime Requests.

Jane Jones introduces isteners' fevourite pieces of music 2.00pm Concerto. Viveldi (Celo Concerto in F major) 3.00 Jamie Crick. Includes information updates, Continuous

Classics and Afternoon Romance 6.30 Newsnight, Sport

finance and news updates, with John Brunning 7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven. John Brunning introduces two hours of easy-listening sounds 9.00 Evening Concert. Brainns (fragic

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RADIO CHOICE Afternoon Play: The Winter Journey

Radio 4, 2.15pm

Face The Facts

BBC2, 930pm

This portrait begins and ends with close-ups of Dr Greer dissecting a lump of raw liver into which she is pressing what turns out to be a tertility annulet. She-then photographs this rather bloody mess, hoping it will provide the cover for her new book. The Whole Warnan. Her publishers are wary. Germaine Greer has moved on since the heady days of her feminist classic The Female Banach. When that appeared in 1971 it made her an icon, but now she looks back on those days with a kind of tender contempt.— laughing at old amateur films which show her not as a stern academic and critic but as a gorgeous, uninhibited clown. The subtitle of the new book is It's Time to Get Angry Again. "But," says Dr Greer, almost wistfully, "my aim is always the same.— I want women to be happier than they are."

A sixth series for this award-winner is no surprise.

A sixth series for this award-winner is no surprise. Animals — especially animals in trouble — are very often the answer to a network's prayer. They involve no salaries, no contracts, no royalties and yet they are the biggest audience-pullers in the business. So, welcome again to Putney Animal Hospital, to Rolf Harris, Shauna Lowry, Rhodri Williams et al. Tonight an underweight hedgehog has wandered in from a park, out of hibernation early because of the mild weather. Shauna accompanies it to Pickles, a hedgehog haven currently sheltering about 50 guests, many of which are soon to be returned to the wild.

BBC1, 10.30pm (Northern Ireland, 11.20pm)

In Alan Hansen's day — the Liverpool star left the game in 1991 and is now a stalwart on Match of the Day — the clubs held all the power in contract negotiations. Today it's the players. The Newcastle striker and England captain Alan Shearer says: "There will never ever be a better time to be a

BBC2. 9.30pm

Animal Hospital

The Football Millionaires

BBC1.8pm

Radio 4, 8pm Bells and whistles programming is all very well in its place but Face The Facts, returning for a new series, is a perfect example of how good radio can be when it is pared to the bone. I shall not dwell again on the tiresome decision to move the show to the evening schedule from its old slot at 9.05am. except to say that investigative journalism is thin enough on the ground without having this programme's audience reduced by a move to the evening. John Waite sets the tone he maintains the evenness of intonation usually associated with a Samaritan talking a man off a window-ledge and he pursues assorted snake-oil salesmen up stairs and down corridors with the measured relentlessness of a tiger stalking an antelope.

RADID 1 (BBC)

6.36am Zoe Bell 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Jo Whitey 2.00pm Mark Redcliffe 4.00 Chris Moyles 5.45 Newsbeat 6.00 Dave Pearce 9.00 Stove Lamaco: The Evening Session 10.00 Digital Updata 10.10 John Peel, Bonnie Prince Billy in session 12.00 The Breszelolick 2.00am Clive Warren 4.00 Scott Mills.

RADIO 2 (BBC)

6.00mm Alex Lester 7.30 Serah Kennedy 9.30 Ken Bruce 12.00 Jimmy Young 2.00pm Ed Stewert 5.05 Johnnie Walker 7.00 Alan Freemen: Their Greatest Bits 8.00 Nigel Ogden 8.00 Peddy in the Smoke, A look at the contribution the high have made to English life 10.00 The Directors: Nell Jorden 10.30 Richard Allinson 12.00 Katrine Leekanich 3.00am Mo Dutta.

RADID 5 LIVE (BBC)

5.00am Morning Reports 8.00 Breakfast 9.00 Nicky Campbelt 12.00 Midday News 1.00pm The Chefrenham Festival, Coverage and commentary from the opening day of the Netional Hurtlessival, including at 3.15 The Smurfit Chempion Hurdle 4.10 Drive 7.00 News Extra 7.30 The Tuesday Match. Coverage of the right's action, including the second leg of the Uefa Cup quarter-linels 10.00 Late Night Live 1.00am Up All Night

TALK RADID

James 12,00 Crime Fighters 1,00pm Anna Resourn 4,00 The Sports Zone 7,00 The World of Formula 1 8,00 Cheating Hearts 10,00 James Whale 1,00am Ian Collins VIRGIN

6.30am Cruis Evans 9.30 Russ Williams 1.00pm Nick Abbot 4.00 Harriet Scott 6.45 Pete and Geoff 18.00 Mark Forrest 1.00em James Marritt 4.30 Richard Allen

6.00am On Air Petroc Trelawny presents music and news, with a review of the National Theatre production of Trolius and Cresside

9.00 Masterworks with Peter Hobday, Wagner (Die, Meistersinger, Pretude to Act 1); Debussy (Cinq poemes de Baudeskie); Wagner (Parsital, Pretude to Act 1); Mozart (Piano Concento No 20 in D minor, K466); Debussy (Fetes gelantes, Set 1)

10.30 Artist of the Week: Gittian Wetr

11.00 Composer of the Week: Strauss

12.00 Composer of the Week: Strauss

12.00 Composer of the Week: Strauss

12.00 Composer of the Week: Strauss

13.00 The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert Nacholas Daniel, oboe, Julius Drate, piano. Harty (A la Campagne); John Gardner (Oboe Sonata No 2 in C); Julian Anderson (The Bearded Lady); Schumann, air Ferguson (There Duos)

2.00 The BBC Orichestras BBC National Orchestra of Wales under Tadazald Otala, Paul Mann and Mark Wigglesworth, Paul Watkins, cello. Dvorak (Camivel Overture; Symphony No 7 in D minor); Schumann (Cello Concerto in A minor); Brahms (Symphony No 2 in D)

Scrument (Celo Concerno in A minor); Branns (Symphony) No 2 in D)

4.00 Voices: Schubert Voices (r)

4.45 Mittalic Machine Tornimy Pearson continues his look at chamber music

5.00 in Tune Sean Patierty introduces live music from Monica Huggett's ensemble Sonnerie

7.30 Performance on 3 Chris de Souza introduces the search of faur concerts other by the Becefin 7.30 Performance on 3 Chris de Souza moudous second of four concerts given by the Borodin

5.36am World News 5.35 Shipping Forecast
5.40 inshore Forecast 5.45 Prayer for the Day
5.47 Farming Today News and issues in rural Britain,
presented by Ashley Cething
6.00 Today with James Naughtie and Sue MacGregor
8.35 (LM) Yesterday in Parlament Update on
political developments
9.00 Unreliable Evidence The mysteries of the legal
system, explored with the aid of expert guasts
9.30 Home Thoughts Nick Barker concludes his
sense about ex-pat magazines and newspapers,
looking at the Asian weekly Eastern Eye (5/5)
9.45 (LW) Daity Sarvices
9.45 (LW) Daity Sarvices
9.45 (FM) Serial: Letters from My Windrall Stephen
Fry reads extracts from Alphonse Daudet's
reflections on his spritual love affair with Provence
10.00 Woman's Hour with Martha Kearney
11.00 Nature The tragite balance of nature which exists
on isolated salands. — a betance invenebly
jeopardised by human exploitation (f)
11.30 Chambers John Fuller-Carp finds himself
attracted to one of his clients, John Bird and
James Fleet star (2/4)
12.00 (LW) News Headlines; Shipping Forecast
12.00 (FM) News 12.04pm You and Yours Topical
consumer news and investigations, presented by
Mark Whitsledy and Time Rawlings,

3.30 Cerminal Tales Mark Rickards gatecrashes the party in Recile, Brazil (2/5)
3.45 This Sceptred Isle Anna Massey nemates part 52 of the history of Britain (r)
4.00 The Learning Curve The Times columnist Libby Purves joins a "poetry confessionel" in Leeds
4.30 Shop Telik Business matters
5.00 PM with Chris Lowe and Clare English
6.00 Stx O'Clock News
6.30 Mammon The Mammon Corporation leunches e propaganda offensive against the euro (5/6)
7.00 The Archers Marjorie learns that she has only eight months left.

9.00 Virus: the University James Erichmen investigates the politics of disease, locusing on the lack of a vaccine for HIV (3/4)
9.30 Unreliable Evidence Broadcast earlier (/)
10.07 The World Tronight Presented by Justin Wabb
10.45 Book at Bedtime: Strait is the Gate Abridged varsion of André Gide's story (2/5) (r)
11.00 News 11.05 Late Night on 4: Do Go On Comic conversations, with Ainstey Eliot, Jeff Dodrran, Griff Rhys Jones and Graeme Garden (2/3)
11.30 (LW) Today in Parliament Political update
11.30 (FW) Talloing Pictures Weekly guide to films and fam-going, with Brian Soley
12.00 News 12.30am The Late Book: The Mask of Command Tim Pigoti-Smith reeds part two of John Keegen's account of leadership styles (r)
12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

Fame beckons for a bunch of nickers

on-the-wall series Jailbirds (BBC1), to shatter our assumptions about what life inside a women's prison is like. But that didn't make it any less of a shock especially for those of us who have tackled insomnia by watching late-night reruns of Prisoner: Cell Block H — to discover that women's jails are built every bit as solidly as men's prisons.

Apparently it is not normal for cell walls in women's prisons to wobble whenever the cell door is slammed shut by e warder, as happens in Cell Block H's Wentworth. Nor, so far, have we seen anyone who mirrors the sadistic Wentworth warder Vera "Vinegar Tits" Bennett, as she was known to the inmetes. If Terrill - who also made The Cruise - manages to turn Jailbirds into even one-tenth as big a cult as Prisoner Cell Block H became (in Los Angeles, the

ou can't blame Chris Terrill series developed such a following for wanting to use his fly that anguished lesbians marched and mourned when lesbian biker Franky Doyle died in an attempted escape), he'll have an enormous hit on his hands. The star? It's too early to tell, after just one episode. But maybe the 27-year-old heroin addict Toni will be the one who gets catapulted to fame by Jailbirds, the way Jane, the cabaret singer was by The Cruise.

Toni Barker arrived at New Hall Prison in Yorkshire with an 18-month sentence (doesn't New Hall sound so like an Oxbridge college? You feel people should be arriving at New Hall with a sentence, and be assigned e room overlooking a quad rather than overlooking an exercise yard). Toni was caught in possession of

heroin. For all her granite-hard façade, she soon turns out to be more wobbly even than the studio sets of Prisoner Cell Block H. Within two days she has to be cut down from e noose. And there are plenty like her. Mike Goodwin, New Hall's Governor, says Britain's female prison population is soaring, "and we don't really know why".

hat we do know is that, on average, one in 800 of the general population will do some harm to themselves. Among women prisoners, it's one m four. But almost more jolting than seeing Toni's traumatic inioation was overhearing another fresh arrival making her first phone call. "Listen," she says, matter-of-factly, when someone answers at the other end, "I've been remanded, orright? Till the 28th of this month. You gonna come and see me, yeah?" The information was imparted with no more drama that you'd invest in a call home to tell your partner that you're going to be late home from the office, so the movie will have to

REVIEW



Joe Joseph

wait for another night, orright? This woman had shoplifted £375 worth of underwear from Bhs. This crime would seem more fathomable if you could imagine even one reason why any person would want or need £375 worth of Bhs underwear. The impression she gave was that she does this sort of thing regularly. Surely there can't be a black market for Bhs knickers, can there? How

can you stoop in the world of perty larceny (or even petricoat larceny)? Do thieves dream of being Raffles the way teenage writers dream of being Bellow, and then slowly acknowledge defeat, admitting to themselves, as the years pass, that they'll never rise much above pilfering chain-store hosiery - the Mills and Boon of crime?

But if it's one thing to pinch panties, it's quite another to shoot people — which is something you can do quite legally if you join the right organisations. While all the men in Nick O'Dwyer's Cutting Edge Shot (Channel 4) who had shot somebody — e former soldier, e policeman — made killing sound like a gruesome but sometimes necessary job, they couldn't suppress a hint of smugness that made you feel that somewhere in their brains a little, macho, do-ya-feel-luckypunk voice was punching the air and yelling "Yessss! I've done it.

surprise to find that none of the shooters was a woman.

t's not that O'Dwyer - who interlaced his film with seductive, slow-motion, black-andwhite footage of guns being loaded, triggers being cocked, chambers rotating - was setting out to make guns sexy: he was just acknowledging that, to many men, they clearly are extraordinarily alluring. A French Foreign Legion-naire, who once shot off e man's face, tells us that a gun "should be horrific, but it isn't. It's interesting

and I don't know why."

An arms dealer confesses that
"to my mind, it's almost a work of art", before explaining what this work of art does: "Imagine somebody standing over you, with e ton weight just above your head, and dropping it — that's about the sort of effect it would have." Even Jackson Poliock's art doesn't blow your

much lower than knicker-stealing and you haven't" It was no brains out quite like that. And you can slip into killing so easily. "I wanted adventure," said the former Legionnaire, who was bored with his life in London's East End. "It was as simple as that." His family had been hoping he'd become something in telecoms. Perhaps he's now found a way of combining the two careers ("If you want to shoot a soldier, please press One: to kill a criminal, press Two; to shoot a civilian, press Three, if you have e preference for which rifle. please press Four . . ").

The gulf between what was, and what might heve been, was also the mainspring of Tony Grounds's mesmerising Births, Marriages and Deaths (BBCZ), which came to an end last night with Ray Winstone's Alan finally having shattered the happiness of every man, woman and child who fell in with him. Basically, life is nothing more than Russian roulette; and the Alans are the loaded chamber.

BBC₁

6.00em Business Breeklast (36326) 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (72055) 9.00 Kilroy (T) (2566719) 9.45 Wipeout (4206484)

10.10 The Vanesse Show (T) (7455158) 10.55 News; Weather (T) (3008245) 11.00 Change That (3018622) 11.25 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (T) (3915581) 11.55 News; Weather (T) (7973719)

12.00 Call My Bluff (49622) 12.30pm Top Tip Challenge (r) (4549177) 12.55 The Weather Show (T) (53683177) 1.00 One O'Clock News (T) (75142) 1.30 Regional News; Weather (59432852)

.40 Neighbours (T) (35572210) 2.05 Ironside (r) (5793055) 2.55 Through the Keyhole (r) (T) (9379697) 3.30 Children's BBC: Playdays (9695500) 3.45 Enchanted Lands(5057603) 3.55 Hububb (9787535) 4.10 Chipmunks Go to the Movies (5449806) 4.35 The Really Wild Show (3913055) 5.00 Newsround (4678581) 5.10 Grange Hill (9372968) 5.33 Rewind (T) (650149)

5.35 Neighbours (r) (T) (479264) 6.00 Six O'Clock News; Weather (T) (871) 6.30 Regional News Magazine (351) 7.00 Holiday (T) (1448) 7.30 EastEnders Peggy enters hospital for her mastectomy (T) (535)



A new series with Rhodri Williams

CROICE Animel Hospital New senes, from the RSPCA's Putney Hospital (T) (4968) 8.30 The Nick Sankha Guha meets a convicted lawbreaker to find out about

the criminal mind (T) (9603) 9.00 Nine O'Clock News; Weather (T) (1239) 9.30 Jailbirds Docusoap tracing life in e women-only prison (2/10) (T) (81142) 10.00 Men Behaving Badly Gary takes a trip

down memory lane (r) (T) (40351) 10.30 CHOICE The Football Millionaires Have today's tootballers got too much power? (T) (567448)

11.20 Billy Connotly'e World Tour of Australie The sights and sounds of Melbourne (4/8) (r) (T) (223887) 12.00 On the Waterfront (1954) Gritty multi-Oscar-winning drama, with Marlon Brando and Eva Marie Saint. Directed by **Ена Каzал (Т) (474291)**

1.45am Weather (1207253) 1.50 BBC News 24 (93504217)

WALES:

6.30pm-7.00 Wales Today (T) (351) 9.30 Week in Week Out (81142) 10.00 Jailbirds (2/10) (T) (40351) 10.30 Men Behaving Badly (r) (T) (53871) 11.00 The Football Millionalres (i) (1) (35876) 11.50 Billy Connolly's World Tour of Australia (4/8) (r) (i) (485210) 12.30am Fil.M: On the Waterfront (i) (243543) 2.15 News (i) (9587611) 2.20-6.00 BBC News 24 (58595017)

7.00am CBBC Breaklast Show: Pingu 7.05 Teletubbies 7.30 Snorks 7.50 Blue Peter 8.20 Taz-Mania 8.40 Polka Dot Shorts 8.50 Pingu 9.00 German Globo 9.10 Working Ii Oul 9.25 Music Makers 9.45 Numbertime 10.00 Teletubbles 10.30 Watch 10.45 Science Zone 11.05 Space Watch 10.45 Science Zone 11.05 Space Ark 11.15 Megameths 11.35 Words and Pictures 11.50 D-Mag 12.10pm English Express 12.30 Working Lunch 1.00 Oakie Doke War Watks (2/5) (r) (T) 1.40 Hart-Davis on History 2.10 Awash with Colour 2.40 News; Weather (T) 2.45 Westminster (T) 3.25 News; Weather (T) 3.30 The Village (r) 3.55 Kaye 4.25 Ready, Steady, Cook (T) 4.55 Esther (T) 5.30 Whose House?

5.30 Whose House? 6.00 The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air Cornedy, slamng Will Smith (r) (T) (322158)

6.25 Heartbreak High Nat decides to leave home (T) (499581)

7,10 The O Zone Interviews with Cher and Ian McCulloch (T) (257210) 7.30 From the Edge Kim Tserkezie tests theatres' facilities for the deaf (T) (177)

8.00 House Proud Jan Tempest's Portakabin is almost complete (3/4) (T) (5210) 8.30 Your Money or Your Life Sound finance advice (or a student in debt and a couple struggling to pay for their retirement holiday (T) (7245)

9.00 Home Front in the Garden Diarmulo Gavin helps a woman to realise her dream of more privacy (T) (2581)



A profile of the feminist writer

9.30 CHOICE Close Up: Germaine Greer An absorbing portrait of the Influential writer (5/7) (T) (112564) 10.20 Coming Clean: The Truth About Housework Obsessives (T) (235719)

10.30 Newsnight (611910) 11.08 Video Nation Shorts (723734) 11.10 Seinfeld Jerry's parents move in with Elaine (T) (106516)

11.35 CROICE The Larry Sanders Show is looking bleak (T) (807413) 11.55 Weather (315142)

12.00 Despatch Box With Andrew Neil (20833) 12.30am BBC Learning Zone: Open University Communications, Money and Work 1.30 Catalysts Against Poliution 2.00 Schools Science — Seeing Through Science 4.00 Languages: Make German Your Business — Part One 5.00 Business and Training: Career Moves— Telecommunications 5.45 Open University: The Emergence of Greek Mathematics 6.10 The Census 6.35 The Statistician Strikes Back

WALES:

6.25pm Turning Points (687622) 6.30 From the Edge (T) (993) 7.00 FAW Premier Cup (12620581) 9.20 House Proud (3/4) (T) Garden (T) (472993)

5.30am ITV Morning News (45516) 6.00 GMTV (5720177) 9.25 Trisha (T) (8952806) 10.30 This Morning (T) (44494500) 12.15pm HTV News (T) (4982142) 12.30 iTV Lunchtime News (T) (4534245) 12.55 Shortland Street (9898055)

1.30 Home and Away Manlyn gets a surprise (T) (35674622) 1.55 The Jerry Springer Show Outrageous American talk show (T) (9288546) 2.40 Wheel of Fortune (T) (2562054) 3.10 ITV News Headlines (T) (4633239)

3.15 HTV News (T) (4625210) 3.20 CITV: Mopetop's Shop (4719603) 3.30 Rosie and Jim (9779516) 3.40 The Wombles (9686952) 3.55 Rupert (4424264) 4.15 Mike and Angelo (5433245) 4.40 How 2 (3395595)

5.00 Home and Away (r) (T) (3852) 5.30 WEST: Can You Keep a Secret? Local youngsters spring surprises unsuspecting adults (2/7) (T) (326) 5.30 WALES: Night Owls (T) (326) 5.58 HTV Crimestoppers (800862) 5.59 HTV Weather (800662)

6.00 HTV News (T) (239) 6.30 ITV Evening News; Weather (T) (719) 7.00 Emmardale Marion puts Biff on the spoi 7.30 WEST: West Eye View Report on the state of the region's railways as complaints reach an record high (603)

7.30 WALES: High Performance Ron Davies's views on the Weish assembly 6.00 Who Wants To Be a Millionaire?



Julie Bramail and Ben Miles star as a couple facing e tough choice (9pm)

 9.00 Peak Practice Sam gets emotionally involved in the heartrending case of e pregnant cancer sufferer who refuses to endanger her unborn child by undergoing treatment (T) (7719) 10.00 Wonderful You Clare gets e proposition (2/7) (T) (2846)

11.00 ITV Nightty News; Weather (T) (113806) 11.20 HTV News and Weather (T) (482595) 11.30 The Big Match: FA Cup Highlights Highlights of Bamsley v Spurs (74245) 12.30am The Big Match: Champions' League Special Preview of tomorrow's quarter-final second-legs (28638)

1.00 The Haunted Fishtank The irreverent TV new with Ed Hall (47659)

1.30 Airwolf (r) (6204543) 2.25 Judge Judy Real-life court cases; ITV News Headlines (9198475) 2.50 Wish You Were Here? (1) (T) (8682659) 3.15 Dead Men's Tales The story of mountain climber Doug Scott's struggle

to survive the ill-fated ascent of the Ogre

in Pakistan (r); News Headlines (94036) 3.45 Footbell Extra Highlights (r) (9169475) 4.40 Coach (59275291) 5.00 ITV Nightscreen (51794)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except: 12.20-12.30pm Central News; Weether (7120210)

12.55 Home and Away (4542264) 1.25 The Jerry Springer Show (4114158) 2.10-2.40 Heart of the Country (56453806) 3.15-3.20 Central News; Weather (4625210) 5.30 Shortland Street (326) 6.00-6.30 Central News at Str. Weather

7.30-8.00 30 Minutes (603) 11.20-11.30 Central News; Weather (482595) 1.30-2.30am Highlander (62562) 2.30 Wish You Were Here? (42253) 3.00 Dead Men's Tales (12110098) 3.25 Football Extra (1397659) 4.25 Central Jobfinder '99 (3383659)

5.20-5.30 Asian Eye (3277494) WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except: 12.15pm Westcount 12.27-12.30 12.55-1.25 (4982142) (7218429) Œ Westcountry Lunchtime Live (T) (4542264) 1.25 The Jerry Springer Show (T) (4114158) 2.10-2.40 Home and Away (T) (56453806) 3.15-3.20 Westcountry News; Weather (T) (4625210) 4.58-5.00 Birthday People (7804061) 5.30 Our House (T) (326) 6.00-6.30 Westcountry Live; Weather (T) (239) 7.30-8.00 Stranger than Fiction (3/6) (T) (603) 11.20-11.30 Westcountry News; Weather (T) (482595)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except: 12.15pm-12.30 Meridian News; Weather (4982142) 5.30 Surprise Chefs (9/10) (326) 6.00-6.30 Meridian Tonight (T) (239) 7.29 Meridian Weather (701061) 7.30-8.00 The Plain (1/4) (r) (T) (603) 11.20-11.30 Meridian News; Weather (T) (482595) 5.00am-5.30 Freescreen (T) (51794)

ANGLIA

As HTV West except: 12.19pm Anglia Air Watch (7212245) 12.20-12.30 Angilla News and Weather (7120210) 5.25-6.00 About Anglia (8014332) 6.00-6.30 Anglia News (T) (239) 7.30-8.00 Out to Lunch with Brief Turner (3/13) (603) 11.19 Anglia Air Watch (615974) 11.20-11.30 Anglia News and

SAL

Starts: 6.00em Sesame Street (r) (88752852) 7.00 The Big Breakbast (67715581) 9.00 Yegolfon: Science in Focus (29148332) 9.20 What the Papers Said (29708867) 8.30 Eureka (74076177) 9.45 Addysg Rihyw (74064332) 10.00 The Number Crew (14011603) 10.10 TVM (91747988) 10.25 How We Used to Live (91822603) 10.45 Worlds of Faith (96112887) 11.00 First Edition (15982448) 11.15 Stage One (15892871) 11.30 Powerhouse (I) (68230061) 12.00 Sesame Street (I) (97026429) 12.30pm Planed Plant (T) (26844974) 1.00 The Afternoon Line (67725968) 1.30 The Cheltenham Festival (64018061) 4.30 Ricki Lake (T) (67059871) 5.00 Planed Plant. (90041697) 5.30 Countdown (T) (67146351) 6.00 Newyddion 6 (T) (93399784) 6.10 Heno (T) (86952887) 7.00 Pobol y Cwm (T) (90127061) 7.30 Newyddion (T) (67050500) 8.00 Y Sloe Gelf (T) (90030581) 8.30 Pengelli (T) (90122518) 9.00 Tair Chwaer (r (37374622) 10.00 Brookside (T) (72889974 10.35 Queer as Folk (4/8) (T) (52134968) 11.15 The 11 O'Clock Show 11.45 Boyz Unfirnited (6/5) (T) (38385264) 12.15am The Cheltenham Festival 151773833) 12.45 Thomas Country (T) (90525949) 1.45 Drivedd

CHANNEL 4

6.00em Sesame Street (r) (25264) 7.00 The Big Breakfast (81993) 9.00 Schools: Science in Focus (4259581) 9.20 What the Papers Sald (8799697) 9.20 What the Papers Sald (8799697) 9.30 Eureke (8644871) 9.45 Stop, Look, Listen (8649326) 10.00 The Number Crew (5960142) 10.10 TVM (9910516)

10.25 How We Used to Live (9922351) 10.45 Worlds of Faith (9189055) 11.00 First Edition IV (3053784) 11.15 Stage One (3149535) 11.30 Powerhouse (T) (8142) 12.00 Sesame Street (T) (32332)

12.30pm Bewitched (r) (T) (67516) 1.00 The Afternoon Line Racing tips (68852) 1.30 The Cheltenham Festival Brough Scott introduces live coverage of the 2.00 Citroen Supreme Novices' Hurdle, 2.35 Guinness Arkle Challenge Trophy Chase, 3.15 Smurfit Champion Hurdle Challenge Trophy and the 3.55 William Hill National Hunt Handicap Chase (543055)

4.30 Countdown (T) (3003622) 4.55 Ricki Lake (T) (5048413) 5.30 Pet Rescue (T) (968)

6.00 Dishes Dating show with a cultivary theme (T) (581) 8.30 Home Improve ent Brad's enthusiasm

for his new job impresses proud parents Tim and Jill (T) (531) 7.00 Channel 4 News; Weather (T) (536871) 7.55 Bodyscapes A close-up look at shaving (T) (594993)

8.00 Brookside Nildd comes clean about Ryan (T) (3806) 8.30 Classic British Cars The Impact of the car on British families during the 1950s, when the first easily affordable models became available (4/8) (1) (9413)

9.00 The Coroner The decomposing body of an elderly woman is found in a top-floor flat, her death having gone unnoticed for weeks (5/5) (T) (8061)

10.00 Father Ted A leminist singer takes over Ted's house (r) (T) (33061) 10.30 Queer as Folk Stuart and Vince meet Phil's grieving mother at his luneral, as well as some old friends (T) (182806) 11.10 The 11 O'Clock Show Satirical comedy

with lein Lee (846622) 11.40 The Cheltenham Festival With Lesley



Donald Sutherland and Julie Christie in Nicolas Roeg's drama (12.15am)

12.15am Don't Look Now (1973) Eerie drama about e couple (Donald Sutherland and Julia Christie) who become involved in e series of bizarre incidents after travelling death (T) (383475)

2.10 The Rosary Munders (1967) A priest (Donald Sutherland) seeks out a ruthless murderer targeting members of the cloth. Mystery thriller directed by Fred Walton (T) (653833) 3.55 Um Cinematic poem about e woman's

dreams of love (73281272) 4.00 Schools: Quest (81594776)

CHANNEL 5

6.00em 5 News and Sport (5109662)
7.00 WideWorld Part 18. A look of the work of

(8994535) 7.30 Milkshakel (2419061) 7.35 Wiznzie's House (f) (4498790)

6.00 Havakazoo (r) (2548413) 8.30 Dappledown Farm (r) (2547784) 9.00 Instant Gardens (6/14) (r) (T) (5210451) 9.25 Russell Grant's Postcards (r)

9.30 The Oprah Winfrey Show (r) (1536531) 10.20 Sunset Beach (T) (3467974)

11.10 Leeza (7719023)

12.00 5 News at Noon (T) (2541500)
12.30pm Family Affairs Gabby and Declan get intende (r) (T) (1092622) 1.00 The Bold and the Beautiful Dylan is turned down (T) (8993806)

1.30 The Roseanne Show Entertainment, music and chat with the outrageous comedian; S News Update (1091993) 2.00 100 Per Cent Gold (9970622) 2.30 Good Afternoon (1405210)

3.30 Destination America (TVM 1987) A blue-collar worker is suspected of murdering his estranged upper-class father, Drama, staming Bruce Greenwood and Rip Tom, Directed by Corey Allen (T) (8794603)

5.25 5 News (83242582)

5.30 100 Per Cent (2217790) 6.00 5 News; Weather Round-up of the day's stories (T) (2214603)

6.30 Family Affairs Siobhan returns to Chamham (T) (2132055)

7.00 Knight Rider Adventure series, starting David Hasselhoff as Michael Knight, a hi-tech vigilante battling to protect the innocent from crooks with the help of his talking car (r) (9878210) 7.30 Natural Passions Documentary about women who have dedicated their lives to

rescuing animals (1) (2138239)

8.00 Crime Report The case of the prison officer Peter Curran, whose body was found in his car in a dramage ditch, months after his disappearance in the wake of an IRA breakout at Whitemoor Prison (4/6) (9967158) 8.30 Bug Alert!: What's the Story? The

problems that experts predict will plague the country if the so-called millennium Bug strikes. Vanessa Collingridge also investigates some of the latest insects to have established themselves in Britain: 5 News Update (9979993)

9.00 Once e Thief (1991) John Woo's action-packed comedy thriller, starring Chow Yun Fat and Leslie Cheung as inepl thieves and their attempts to steal a priceless painting. With Cherrie Chung. Directed by John Woo (T): S News Update (49018245) 10.40 Love Street Erotic short starring Dana

Weters (1492784) 11.20 Two Gus protects a woman from her abusive husband (5473784) 12.15am The Jack Docherty Show With Graham Kelly (1562543)

12.55 Live and Dangerous All-night sports magazine (89467098) 3.45 Asian Football Show (7351949) 4.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H (7832562) 5.30 100 Per Cent (r) (8513369)

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SATELLITE, CASLE AND DIGITAL

• For further listings see Saturday's Vision SKY ONE

SKY ONE

7.00em Court Duckula 1980611 7.30 The Chris Evans Breaklast Show (91790) 8.30 Hollywood Squares (87806) 0.00 Sally Jessy Raphaet (18005) 18.00 The Oprah Winrivey Show (9992) 11.00 Gullyt (93515) 12.00 Jenny Jones (22413) 1.00pm Mod About You (973321 1.30 Jeopardy (16177) 2.00 Sally Jessy Raphaet (88142) 8.00 Jenny Jones (170611 4.00 Gullyt (30988) 5.00 Sar Trek Voyager (2719) 8.00 America's Dumbest Criminala (93518 3.30 Dream Team (9513 7.00 The Smpsons (348) 7.30 The Smpsons (6887) 3.00 Resaue Modics (6988) 6.30 Corpores (1803) 9.00 Words Wildest Police Videos (61336) 7.00 Boody Foregransi (64413) 11.00 Pagen 169032 12.30em The Comment (69882) 1.30 Long Play (8884007) each 1930 Long Play (8884007)

SKY BOX OFFICE Sky's pay-per-view movie channels. To view any tant retophone 03e0 800888 Sky BOX OFFICE 1 (Transponder 51) SKY BOX OFFICE 2 (Transponder 60)

Fallen (1997) Sry: 30x OFFICE 3 (Transponder 59) Flubber (1997) Sky BOX OFFICE 4 (Transponder 58) Double Team (1897)

SKY PREMIER SKY PREMIER

6.00sm The Lies He Told (1996) (30177)
8.00 An American Tall II: Flevel Goes
West (1996) (13364) 10.00 House Arrest
(1996) (18264) 12.00 The Drectors. Joel
Schumacher (11351) 1.00pm Hollywood
BLIZ (24871) 2.00 The Lies He Told
(1996) (59536) 4.00 An American Tall II:
Flevel Goes West (1991) (993) 6.00 Well
Street (1997) (1956) (65871) 6.00 Well
Street (1997) (19564) (11.40 Never Talk
Monty (1997) (19564) (11.40 Never Talk
to Strangers (1995) (430790) 1.10sm The
Sheltering Sky (1990) [47450534] 3.30
The War of the Roses (1999) (581746)

SKY MOVIEMAX Dam Desperate (1947) (64719) 7.00 A residely for Love (1996) (16413) 9.00 Spiceworld: The Movie (1997) (62158) 11.00 Laura Landing Stept Here (TVM 1988) (40784) 1.00 A Holidary for Love (1996) (56974) 8.00 The Buttercream Gamp (1982) (70448) 5.00 Laura Landag Slept Here (TVM 1988) (91055) 7.00 Spicawortd: The Movie (1997) (93053) 8.00 Hollywood Confidential (1997) (32055) 12.40am Normal Life (1995) (320055) 12.40am Normal Life (1995) (151086) 2.26 Marphy's Romance (1985) (20036) 4.15 The Buttercream Gang (1982) (88564901) SKY CINEMA

4.00pm Advise and Consent (1982) (1785413) 6.30 Destination Moon (1980) (936948) 8.00 A Touch of Larceny (1989) (236697) 18.00 Going My Way (1944) (12537790) 12.05mn No Way to Treat a Lady (1980) (8:687-6): 1.55 The Effect of Camma Rays on Man-Indep-Moon Marigolds (1972) (4963252) 3.40 Seven Days Leave (1942) (20683253) FILMFOUR

6.00pm Journey to the Centre of the Earth (1959) (93481730) 8.10 Tin Men Earth (1959) (63-87.730) 8.10 Thr Men 1967) (63-03351) 10.05 The Pillow Book (1995) (82575326) 12.15 m Heles Pour Mol (1993) (55-07.23) 1.25 Northing Personal (1996) 4391039 3.20 Cal (1964) (18826185) 6.00 Close

9.00pm Fame (1980) (63103784) 11.30 Ada (1961) (94182577) 1.45em The Hun-ger (1963) (23332036) 3.30 Village of the Damned (1960) (82372291) 5.00 Close

SKY SPORTS 1 7.00em Sports Cerdie 7.15 V-Map 7.45 Total Sport 8.15 You're On Sky Sports' 9.00 Racrig News 8.30 Acrobics 10.00 Luague Royew 11.00 Table Terms 12.00 4-crobics 12.30pm Total Sport 1.00 Sportsh Frontibal 12.90 pm Total Sport 1.00 Sports Frontial 2.30 League Review 3.30 V-Max 4.00 Sports Unlimited 5.00 Wrestling 6.00 Sports Centre 6.30 Insoft Scottish Football 7.30 Fastra, 8.00 Premier Shooker League 18.00 Sports Centre 18.15 You're On Sky Sports I 1.00 Insoft Scottish Football 12.00 Sports Centre 18.15 World On Sky Sports I 1.00 Premier Shooker League 3.00 Sports Centre 3.15 Code 18.15 Code 18

SKY SPORTS 2 7.00mm Acrobics 7.30 Sports Centre 7.45 Racing News 8.15 Moto-Plus 8.45 Sports Centre 9.00 Fish TV 16.00 International 5.00pm What's Cooking? 5.30 Gridock 0.00 Mr Two Wives 6.30 Our House 7.00

Bowls 12.00 Ward Motor Sport 3.00pm Live Cricket 18.00 Table Terms 11.00 Spors Unlareted 12.00 Snowboarding 12.30em Fastra 1.00 Football FA Cup Sporai 2.30 Sports Centre 2.48 Close SKY SPORTS 3

12.00em Westing 1.00em Fish TV 2.00 Vendertul World of Gelf 3.00 Gelden Age of Motor Racing 3.30 Bowls 5.38 Fastrax 6.00 Table Terms 7.00 World Motor Sport 16.00 Football FA Cup Special 11.30 Close EUROSPORT 7.30em Adventure 8.00 Cart 9.30 Wom-en's Bathlon 11.00 Europosis 12.30 Snow-boarding 1.00 Dog Sod Rocking 1.30 Snocker 3.00 Ten-Pin Bowling 4.00 Euro-gosis 8.30 Socic Car 8.45 Strongest Mari 7.45 Bowrg 8.45 Live Football 10.45 Live Football 12.00 Raily 12.30em Close

UK GOLD 7.00are Crostraids 7.30 Neighbours 7.55
EastEnders 8.30 The Bib 9.30 Price and
Projudice 10.30 Rhoda 11.00 Callas 11.85
Neighbours 12.25pm EastEnders 1.00
Libet Brave 2.00 Callas 2.35 The Bib 3.55
EastEnders 4.30 Rhoda 5.00 All Creatures
Great and Small 8.00 Dynasty 7.00 Ever
Decreasing Carties 7.40 Dad's Army 8.20
The Britise Empire 9.00 Red Dward 9.40
Cartie Traveller 10.45 Bugs 11.50 The Bib
12.50am Back addic the Third 1.25 French
and Sanders 2.00 Duranteried 3.00

and Saunders 2.00 Dangerfield 3.00 Shopping with Screenshop

CARLTON SELECT

GRANADA PLUS 6.00mm Whin These Walls 7.00 Holding the Fort 7.30 Oct. Couple 6.00 Hallefugh 8.30 The Many Wives of Patrick 6.00 Classic Coronation Street 9.30 Emmerdale Farm 18.00 Upstars, Downstars 11.00 The Gentle Touch 12.00 Classic Coronation Street 12.30pm Emmerdale Farm 1.00 The Many Wives of Patholk 1.30 Me and My Gri 2.00 Upstant, Downstans 3.00 The Love Doat 4.00 The Professores 5.00 Harl to Hart 9.00 Emmerdale Farm 8.30 Classic Company Size 7.00 The Professionals 8.00 The Benry Hill Show 8.00 The Sweeray 18.00 The Bran Conley Show 10.30 Wheelappers and Shuntere Social Cub 11.00 Close

DISNEY CHANNEL

6.00am Gumm Bears 6.25 Classic Toons 6.35 Tale Spin 7.00 Classic Toons 7.10 Aladdin 7.25 101 Dahmalans 8.00 Good Troops 8.25 Classic Toons 8.45 New Adventures of Winne the Poots 6.00 The Adventures of Spin 8.05 Annual Spid 9.15 Pookset Chagons 9.30 Bear in the Big Blue House 9.56 The Tooghoush Family 18.00 Bits See 10.10 Rose and Jim 10.30 The Big Gerapor 10.45 PB and J Otter 11.00 Seesine Sheet 12.00 The Adventures of Spot 12.85pm Ahmet Sheil 12.15 Pocket Dragons 12.30 Bear in the Big Base House 12.65 The Toothbrush Farnty 1.00 Bits See 1.10 Rosle and Jim 1.30 The Big Garage 1.45 PB and J Otter 2.00 New Adventures of Winner the Proft 2.30 New Adventures of Winner the Proft 2.30 New Seed, 3.00.



Lewis Carroll'a classic adventure is brought to life in the animated version of Alice in Wonderland (Disney Channel, 7pm)

Guy 8.00 Teen Angel 6.30 Boy Meets World 7.00 FLM: Alice in Worldestend (1951) 8.15 Honey, I Shrunk the Kids. [be 17 Stow 9.00 Double Directure: (10.00 Higher Introvement 10.30 Worlde (1985) FLOOD Outn. Mediche Wornes (1930) Coses. FOX KIDS NETTACOUSE.

6.80mm Adventures of Dodo 6.85 Power Rangers Turbo 6.85 Spidermen 7.20 Orgay and the Cockreaches 7.20 Carriery Rang Country 8.00 Hero Turties 8.25 Incredible

Courty 8.00 Hero Turtes 8.25 Incredible Hulk 8.50 Iron Man 9.15 Farinstic Four 8.40 X-Men 10.05 Casper 10.30 Oppy and the Cockrosches. 10.35 Eark Stravageros. 11.35 Bobby s World 11.30 Life with Louis 11.35 Horne to Rent 12.05pm Dennis and Grasher 12.30 Donkey Kong Country 1.00 Movgli: The New Adventures of Jungle Book 1.25 Ace Venture 1.55 The Incredible Hulk 2.20 Iron Man 2.45 Farinstic Four 3.10 X-Men 3.30 X-Press 3.35 Spiderman 4.00 Goosebum pt 4.25 Hero Turtes: The Next Muselon 4.50 Casper 6.00 Dennis and Grestier 8.30 Ace Venture 8.00 Donkey Kong Country 6.30 Esle Stravageros. 6.55 Oggy and the Cockroaches 7.00 Cose

FOX KIDS NETWORK

State On, Harvey Moon 6.00 Chancer 9.00 The Upper Hand 9.30 Flying Staff 16.00 Peak Practice 11.00 Hit Street Blues 12.00 My Two Wives 12.30ers Gndlock 1.00 Close

Bite Size 10.10 Rose and Jim 10.30 The of Winnse the Poots 2.30 Quack Pack 3.00 The Liffe Mermaid 3.30 Art Altack 4.00 101 CalDon Rocke 6.30 Bruno the Kid 7.00 CalDog 7.30 Rugrats 6.06 The Wild Romberrys 8.30 Arthur 9.00 Chidren's BEC 16.06 Wintze's House 10.30 Papa Besser Stones 11.00 Magic School Bus 11.30 PB Bear etc 12.00 Rugrats 12.30pm Bue's Cues 1.00 Bananas in Pyramas 1:30 Little Bear Stones 2.00 Paddington Bear etc 2.30 Children's BBC 3.30 Doug 4.00 Three Stones 4.00 Rep. 10.00 April 10.00 Rep. 10.00 Rep.

Friends and Jerry 4.30 Rugrats 5.00 Sister Sister 5.30 Kenan and Ivel 8.00 Renford Rejects 6.30 Moesha 7.00 Close TROUBLE -7.00am USA High 7.30 Cey Guys 8.00 Saved by the Belt: New Class 8.30 Hong Time 8.00 Tempesti 9.59 On the Males 10.00 Echo Point 10.30 Hollyceks 11.00 Sweet Valley High 11.30 Ready or Not 12.00 Fresh Prince of Bel-Air 12.30pm in the House 1.00 Sweet 1.30 Tempesti 2.20 Cn the Males 2.30 Hollyceks 3.00 Ready or Not 3.30 City Guys 4.00 Fresh Prince of Bel-Air 4.30 in the House 5.00 Sweet by the Belf: New Class 5.30 Sweet Valley High 6.00 USA High 8.30 Blast Steps Special 7.00 Sweet 7.30 Hong Time

BRAVO 8.00pm Markel Law 8.00 Extreme Chemp-ionship Wrestling 9.30 Cops 19.00 Late Lounge 10.30 Erobo Confessions 11.00 FR.Mir: Red Heat (1982) 1.00am Erobo Confessions 1.30 Late Lounge 2.00 Markel Law 3.00 FR.Mir. Affisick of the Killer Tomaticae (1977). 800 Extreme Champoes (1977) 6.00 Extreme Char Wresting 5.20 Cops 6.00 Class PARAMOUNT COMEDY

7.00pm Jerny 7.30 Grace Under Fire 8.00 Ellen 8.30 Spin Cay 9.00 Drop the Dead Dorkey 8.30 Whose Line is it Anywey? 10.00 Fesser 10.30 Cheese 11.00 Seriedi 11.30 The Larry Sanders Show 12.00 Lete Night with Devid Letterman 1.00am Text 1.30 Frontine 2.00 Dr Ketz 2.30 This and Fire 3.00 Michigant 3.90 Ethiotic and Fibs 3.00 Nightstand 3.30 Abbott and Costello 4.00 Close THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

SATELLITE: Spin-MICHIGHT ONLY 7.30am Bromberg Information Television 6.00 Sightings 9.00 Buck Rogers in the 25th Centary 10.00 Quantum Leap 11.00 Dark Stadkows 11.50 New Afried Hitchcook 12.00 The Twiight Zone 1.00pm Tales of the Unexpected 1.30 Takes of the Unexpected 2.00 Amazing Stories 2.30 Mysteries, Magic and Mirades 8.00 Buck Rogers in the 25th Century 4.00 The Incredible Huk 5.00 Sightings 8.00 Time Trax 7.00 Quantum Leap 8.00 V 9.00 Twin Peales 10.00 FUlfit Parentle (1982) 11.35 Set Energy 8.00 V 9.00 Twin Peales 10.00 Fulfit Parentle (1982) 11.35 Set Energy Shartel 12.00 Dark Skies rears 10.00 FILM: Parasite (1962) Sci-Focus Special 12.00 Derk 1.00em FILM: Halloween II (1984) Locem FILSE Halloween II (1881) 2.45 Sc-Focus Special 8.00 Dark Shadows 3.30 Dark Shadows 4.00 Close

HOME & LEISURE 6.00em Today's Gournet 6.30 Grahem Kerr 7.00 Room Service 7.30 The Painted House 8.00 Wedding Story 8.30 A Baby Story 8.00 Simply Painting 9.30 The Great Gardening Plot 18.00 Instant Gardens 16.30 Two's Country Cooking 11.00 The December 11.25 The Home and Leisure Home 11.30 Rev Mart Felhon & Abentimes House 1.30 Rex Hurt Fishing Adventures 12.00 Our House Down Under 12.30 pm Anoues Treat 1.00 Our House 1.30 Hometime 2.00 New Yankee Workshop 2.30 Home Again with Bob Vila 3.00 This Old House with Sizive and Norm 3.30 Cherie West Fishing DISCOVERY

4.00pm Rex Hum Fishing Adventures 4.30 A River Samewhere 5.00 Hider 6.00 Wildlife SOS 6.30 Untamed Africa 7.30 The Quest 8.00 Great Escapes 8.30 Cut There 9.00 Trailblazers 18.00 Inlandse Descent in the Ice 11.00 Stant Warners 12.00 The Great Egyptiens 1.00em Häler 8.00 Close **ANIMAL PLANET**

12.00am The New Adventures of Black Beauty 12.30pm Hollywood Safari 1.30 Crocodile Hunter 2.00 Breed All About it Croscolle Hunter 2.00 Breed All About it Greyhounds 2.30 Humen/Nature 3.30 Harry's Practice 4.00 Jack Harria's Animel Adventures 4.30 Animal Doctor 8.00 Pet Rescue 5.30 Croccolle Hunters 6.00 The New Adventures of Black Beauty 5.30 Lastie 7.00 Rediscovery of the World 6.00 Animal Doctor 8.30 Totally Australia 8.30 Emergency Vets 10.00 The Last Paradises 10.30 Animal Detectives 11.00 All-Bird TV 11.36 Emergency Vets 12.00 Close

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC 7.00pm Seel Hunter's Cave 7.30 Rocky Mountain Beaver Pond 8.00 Keleheri 9.00 Natural Born Killers. Llores of the African Night 10.00 Myssery Tomb of Abustr 10.30 Ice Tombs of Siberta 11.00 The Grizzies HISTORY

CARLTON FOOD 9.00sm Food Network Daily 9.30 Coxon's Richen College 18.00 The Green Gournet 10.30 First Taste 11.00 Worral Thompson Cooks 11.30 A Sice of the Action 12.00 Food Network Daily 12.30pm Loyd's Louisiana 1.00 Coxon's Kitchen College 1.30 Thomosphy Modern British 3.00 Crez Bruno 2.30 Food Network Daily 3.00 Novolic Nosh 3.30 A Sice of the Action 4.00 Tessa's Tastebuds 4.30 Lunch with Ed Boines 5.00 Close Boines 5.00 Close LIVING

LIVING

6.00mm Tray and Crew 6.20 10 plus 2 6.40
Greedysaurus and the Gang 6.45 Prisbert
the Frog 6.50 Poles Doi Shorts 7.00
Practical Perenting 7.05 Profesor Bubble
7.30 Callou 7.35 Bug Alert 7.55 Practical
Parenting 8.00 Barney and Finencis 8.25
Bebeloos 6.30 Tray Telas 8.35 Tray and
Crew 8.50 Practical Perenting 8.00 Special
Bables 6.30 The Roceanne Show 16.00
The Jany Sorniger Show 10.50 Meury
Pounch 11.40 Brookside 12.10pm Through
the Keytrole 12.40 Rescue 911 1.10
Beyond Belef: Fact or Fiction 1.40 Meury
Povich 8.30 Special Belties 3.00 The Living
Rom 3.50 Michael Cole 4.40 Through the
Keytrole 5.10 The Heat Is On 5.40 Fleach,
Steady, Cook 6.15 The Jeny Sownger Stow
7.05 Rescue 911 7.35 Animal Rescue 6.00
IA Law 8.00 Fillable Lower's Knot (1985) LA Law 8.00 Fill Lover's Knot (1995) 11.00 The Sex Files E 12.00 Close ZEE TV

6.00em Punysis Folk Songs 5.30 Old s Gold 6.00 Asp Ki Farmelsh 6.30 Usha Uthap Show 7.00 Fath: Hindu 7.30 Daly News 8.00 Out and About 8.30 Taria 9.00 Himalaya's Hasraten 10.00 Yes Sir Etd, No Sir Etd 11.00 Khana Khazana 11.30 Parampara 12.00 FRLM 3.00pm Bangla TV Nokhather Rat 6.30 Cme Magic 4.00 Akter Birbel 4.30 Zee Top 10 5.30 Asshirwad 6.00 I -10 6.30 Humm Tara Rum 7.00 Jee Sahab 7.30 Chain Chierra B.00 News 8.30
Deraar 0.00 Do Aur Do Paanch 9.30
Zonjeeren 10.00 Hadd Kar Di 10.30
Mahabharal 11.30 Yaadon Ke Rang 12.00
News 12.30am P slustan Busmess Weel1.00 Bangla TV 1.30 Parmaran 2.00 FILM:



TENNIS 49

Moya thrives on pressure of being new world No 1

SP()RT

CRICKET 50

Australia claw back initiative as McGrath takes five in Jamaica



TUESDAY MARCH 16 1999

Lewis camp fights for changed decision.



Lewis: waiting for decision on rematch with Holyfield

possibility of having to go through meaningless contests to acquire the three belts that will give him the title of undisputed world heavyweight

As a result of the seriously flawed decision that robbed him of the title that would have given him universal acclaim, he has to wait on a rematch with Evander Holyfield. He can also reflect ruefully that the British Judge, Larry O'Connell, yesterday — sadly too late — acknowledged the error of his decision to make the contest a draw, although the admission should strengthen the Lewis camp's case

for the result to be overturned.

If Holyfield decides to retire.

Lewis, the World Boxing Council champion, will have to meet the new World Boxing Association and Inter-

LENNOX LEWIS faces the distinct national Boxing Federation (IBF) champions. He would have no trouble disposing of the new incumbents but the impact of winning the undisputed world title piecemeal would not have the same impact as lifting it from Holyfield.

It is not certain what Holyfield will do. At present, his lawyer is talking to Lewis's promoters, Panix, of London, about a rematch. But that course could prove difficult to follow because the purses will have to be split 50-50 and that might not appeal to Holyfield. Holyfield was reluctant to box for

his \$18 million (about £11 million) purse. He will have to take \$14 million for the rematch, assuming that HBO, the pay-per-view television network, would still guarantee \$28 million as it did for the last FROM SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT, IN NEW YORK

It will be surprising if Holyfield agrees to a pay cut. Also, it is possible that Holyfield's family, realising that the Lewis bout pushed him deeper into physical decline, might persuade him to get out before he suffers serious injury, just as Mu-hammad Ali did by staying in box-

ing too long.
That is why Lewis's trainer,
Emanuel Steward, wants the decision to be changed through a special investigation. "I want to see the decision overturned," Steward said. This injustice should not stop here because I heard on television that the public gave Holyfield only one round. Decent, intelligent people. The fifth round should be the core of

The judge, Eugenia Williams.

whose scoring came under severe criticism for giving the fifth round, Lewis's best, to Holyfield, is an IBF official. The IBF is at present the

subject of a Senate inquiry.
Lewis's stature has suddenly grown here, with sports fans looking at him as a real champion. Some Americans who took bets on the fight are accepting that Lewis was

the winner and are paying up.

He will be staying here for two days for television appearances before returning to London. Lewis said yesterday: "I don't think Evander Holyfield is going to want a rematch. He was feeling disappointed at the end of the fight. He never even held up his hand.

"I beld up my hand. I went over to."

"I held up my hand. I went over to say sorry, and he said, that's the

he lost He looked bad after the fight like a hurt man, like an old man and there was a lot of despair in his face. Physically, he looked

"It seems that he was a man living in a fantasy world who had just woken up. When somebody asked whether he wanted a rematch, he wasn't quick to give an answer and Don King jumped in talking some

"Holyfield should realise that a rematch could put him in some physical danger. He should start thinking about the health aspect. He claimed that he was suffering some cramp after the fight, but I heard a whisper that it was his ribs. Next time I'll knock him out."

Stewart added: "I never thought that Holyfield should have taken the

fight in the first place with Lennox, Last night he looked like an old slow, bald man. He should be man enough to say Lennox beat him."
Lewis said that this setback was
typical of his career, which had been

bedevilled by politics and top boxers, who had avoided him. He was now who had avoided into the idea and realised that boxing was really about money. "I realise it's a business, more and more. If I don't get a rematch. I'll have to fight [Henry]
Akinwande and others. I hope
Holyfield will give me a rematch
and the quicker the better."
The only other opponent for Lewis
is Mike Tyson. He said he will be

happy to take him on after he has become the undisputed heavyweight champion.

Judge's error, page !

Irish runners fancied for Festival record

BY ALAN LEE, RACING CORRESPONDENT

Festival

betting firm, began trading on

Irish winners last Friday and

report that one-way business has forced the market up from

Istabraq is likely to start around 2-1 on to become the

first horse to retain the

hurdling crown since See You

Then in 1985. The last winner

of the race at a comparable

price was Sir Ken, 9-4 on when

No 1666

(4,2,6)

covery) (4-4)

1 Copying others' work (10)

10 Peter Pan pirate captain (4)

13 Relative: pawnbroker (5)

14 In appropriate way (5) 16 A horse, an old joke (8)

20 Promise: be profane (5)

22 Dominant position (10)

■ SOLUTION TO NO 1665

21 Chiselling, forcing, out (7)

I Level of sound: steepness of

THESESTIMES

ACROSS: 1 Skew 3 Articled 8 Regular 10 Numbs 11 Contretemps 13 Excess 15 Anomie 17 Warm-blooded

DOWN: 1 Sprocket 2 Elgin 4 Rarity 5 Ignominious

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6 Lump sum 7 Desk 9 Lord's Prayer 12 Pendulum 14 Cowling 16 Oberon 18 Defoe 19 Naff

20 Amity 21 Restful 22 Figurine 23 Germ

8 Alice illustrator (7)

9 To summarise (2.3)

11 US lawyer (8)

17 Coffin stand (4)

2 Henry VIII's Flanders Mare

5 Incidental benefits (from dis-

12 Dancers' stretchy garments

15 Colourful cagebird (abbr.) (6)

18 A school: a game (5) 19 Store of earmarked money

BOOKSHOP

3 An eye membrane (4)

4 Tell; be connected (6)

6 Underfed condition (12)

7 Like sticky earth (6)

13 Material thrown

shaft (6)

a buying level of 4.7 to 5.5.

THE addictive Cheltenham madness descends today amid number of winners. Last night, as the spa town began to fill with racegoers as rest-less as greyhounds in their traps, thousands of Irish folk were intent on starting three days of celebration by acclaiming Istabraq as the shortestpriced winner of the Champion Hurdle for 45 years.

Irish-trained horses have never won more than seven races at the Festival, but that figure, achieved in 1977 and 1996, is clearly under threat at a meeting that will begin in forecast sunshine, on drying ground - described as good to soft — and with more than 85 per cent of the 150,000 tickets already sold.

Ireland provides the favourite for the first three races today and bookmakers are preparing for an early onslaught. Sporting Index, the spread

completing the hat-trick in Cheltenham

Since being narrowly beaten on his hurdling debut in 1996, Istabraq has won 14 of his past 15 races. His jockey, Charlie Swan, is mortified by the one that got away. "I'm sick about it. If he hadn't been beaten at Liverpool last season he would have been like Cigar in America, going for 17 or 18 on the bounce," he said.

The Aintree defeat came at the hands of Pridwell, ridden by Tony McCoy, described by Swan as "possibly the best jockey I've seen — he's just so brave". While some jockeys took a day off before the Festival, McCoy won the selling hurdle at Taunton. Corals quote him at 7-4 favourite to be leading jockey at the Festival for the third successive year.

All five of McCoy's rides today are for Martin Pipe. who is evidently hellbent on increasing his tally of 22 Festival winners. Most trainers are delighted to have one horse good enough to run, but Pipe is sending out no fewer than 21 on the opening day alone.

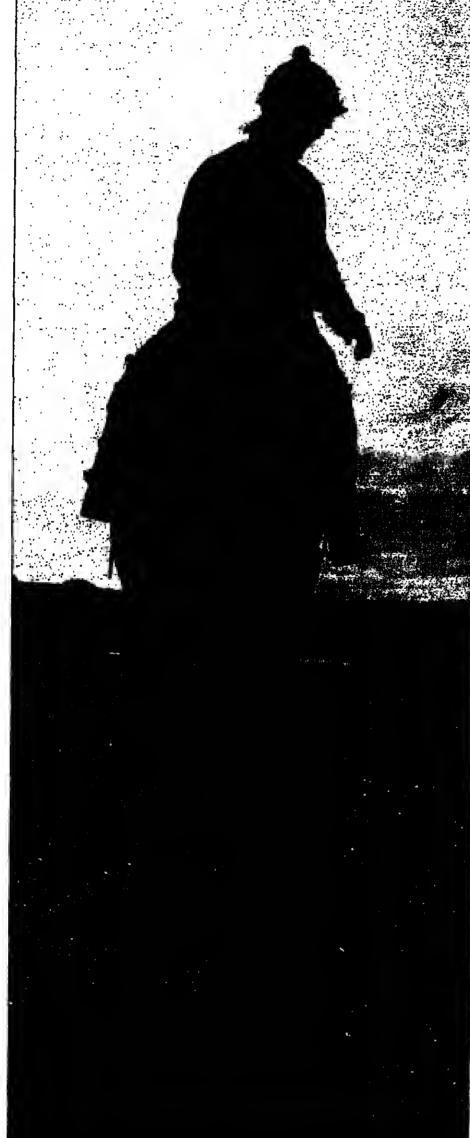
Steve Gollings is at the other end of the training scale but he had his moment of glory when In Truth won the Fulke Walwyn Kim Muir Chase at 20-1 last March and he aims for a repeat today, in every sense. He moved his horse into the racecourse vard at the weekend, to follow precisely the suc-

cessful pattern of last year. Cheltenham is an arena where many cling to superstitions and familiarity. Pat Taaffe, rider of Arkle, the greatest of all Irish champions, always stayed at the same hotel. Many thousands of others seek to return to regular bases but not all find it easy. Ruth Hampson, of the town's tourist office, reported yesterday that demand for accomodation has been higher than ever this year

"I started booking back in September, two months ahead of normal, and the level of enquiries has never slackened." she said. 'There will be a queue of people outside my office in the morning, all arrived with nowhere to stay. I suspect there will also be some unsuspecting Japanese tour-ists who have no idea what is going on."

Those who stay for the party may help to drink 14,000 bottles of champagne and 50,000 bottles of beer — and that is simply inside the racecourse. At the Queen's Hotel, where the practice for years was to strip the fover of fine paintings and antique furniture and bring in garden chairs for the week, the restaurant has been converted into a long, functional Guinness bar. The Irish, after ail. may have plenty of

successes to toast.



Florida Pearl, the big Irish hope for the Gold Cup on Thursday, crops the spring grass at Cheltenham in a moment of tranquility before the storm of excitement breaks today

BACK & MUNICE WHILE IN

TODAY ON PAGES 46 AND 47

 Follow your fancy in today's feature race, the Smurfit Champion Hurdle, with a full colours guide to the runners and riders Alan Lee talks to Rod Simpson, whose chequered training career has brought him to Cheltenham today with Nipper Reed

 Day-by-day guide to the Irish prospects TOMORROW AND THURSDAY

 The Times team of Alan Lee, Chris McGrath, Rob Wright and Simon Barnes will bring you the best coverage of the three days

Italy aches as Ronaldo calls in the doctor

FROM OLIVER HOLT IN MILAN

THE extent of the obsession with the fitness of the world's best footballer became apparent yet again yesterday when Italian televison stations flew into a panic because Ronaldo had missed a training session suffering from a bad head-

The news that a doctor had been called to attend to the Brazilian in the early hours of the morning at the Internazionale. training camp at Appiano Gentile immediately raised con-cerns that Ronaldo was succumbing to the same stresses. and strains that sent him into convulsions before the World Cup final last summer. The pressure on him has

hardly relented since then. and now, after a two-month absence because of a lingering knee injury, Inter are pinning all their hopes on his return as they prepare to try to overturn their 20 deficit against Manchester United in the second leg of their European Cup. quarter-final here tomorrow

Inter, though, insisted that the speculation was ridicu-lous. There is nothing mystespokeswoman said. "It was only a headache, nothing serious, nothing terrible. Anyway. he trained fully with the rest of the team this afternoon. There is no problem."

There are no problems for

Manchester United. At training yesterday the only player not being considered for selection was David May, the defender, who has struggled against injury all season. A party of 22 was due to fly to Milan this morning, taking with them Nicky Butt, the midfield player, who has recovered quickly from a hip injury. Cru-cially. Peter Schmeichel has

recovered from a bout of flu. Ronny Johnsen could be preferred to Henning Berg as the partner to Jaap Stam in the United defence. Stam, who has played with and against Ronaldo, yesterday spoke of his sympathy for the pressure that the Brazil forward is under, but Alex Ferguson, the United manager, remained i an unforgiving mood.

"Inter did not manage to score an away goal in the first leg." Ferguson said, "and they will realise how important that could be. One more from us tomorrow and we could put the tie beyond their reach." Stam feels that it is unfair to

expect so much from someone as young as Ronaldo, 22, "I know Ronaldo very well," Stam, who played with the Brazilian briefly at PSV Eind-hoven, said. "I feel sorry for him now as he's under so much pressure all the time."

> Stadium of fright, page 48 Barnsley's test, page 48

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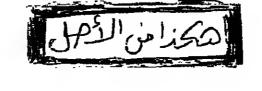
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